

British woman reunited with kids after ban on nude bathing

LONDON (AP) — The appeal court has ruled that a woman who was banned from taking her children to a beach for nude bathing should be allowed to return.

Al Pacino leaves his mark in cement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Al Pacino's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was unveiled Saturday.

Esterlin accused of betrayal

MIAMI (AP) — A former U.S. ambassador to Cuba has been accused of betraying the United States.

Callers seek information on talk show

PHOENIX (AP) — A woman who called a radio talk show and threatened to kill a man has been identified.

Muslims find peace in mall

PHOENIX (AP) — A group of Muslims found a peaceful place to pray in a shopping mall.

Israeli soldier killed in south Lebanon

RASHAYA (AFP) — An Israeli soldier was killed and two others wounded Saturday in a clash with Hizbollah guerrillas in the self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, security sources said. A spokesman for Hizbollah guerrillas told Agence France Presse that they fired rockets on posts manned by Israeli troops and their ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), in the eastern sector of the south Lebanon zone. In retaliation, Israeli artillery shelled parts of the western Bekaa valley in southeastern Lebanon facing the targeted Israeli and SLA posts. Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of south Lebanon. Israel set up its "security zone" in South Lebanon in 1985 to protect its northern territories from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Tarawneh delivers King's message to Bahraini leader

MANAMA (Petra) — Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifeh of Bahrain on Saturday received Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh who relayed to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. Sheikh Issa and Dr. Tarawneh discussed bilateral ties and issues of common concern to both Jordan and Bahrain.

Egyptian Christian slain during police search for Islamists

MINYA (AFP) — An Egyptian Christian was killed by a stray bullet during a police manhunt for Islamists as he worked near the site of a deadly attack against police earlier this week, his family said Saturday. The family said they alerted police Wednesday night when Munir Zaki Girgis, 60, did not return from work at a field near Abu Qurqas in the Minya area, about 250 kilometres south of Cairo. Police found his body the next morning. The family said police killed Girgis while they were combing the area but the police said he was killed by "unknown" assailants. The police were concentrating on fields, where Islamists often hide, as they searched for the perpetrators of Monday's attacks near Abu Qurqas and Mallawi in Minya province which killed nine policemen and two civilians.

Saudi authorities to put up fireproof tents in Mina

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabia will set up 40,000 fireproof tents to house Muslim pilgrims in the city of Mina, where as many as 500 people died in a fire in April. The ministry of public works and housing will spend \$800 million to set up the tents, which will be made of fiberglass and can withstand temperatures of up to 170 degrees Celsius, the Saudi Gazette reported Saturday. About 10,000 of the tents will be set up before the annual pilgrimage next April, the English-language daily said. All of the tents will be equipped with air conditioning, it said. By official Saudi count, the fire and stampede during the pilgrimage, or Hajj, killed 343 people and injured more than 1,500.

Third woman gets senior post in Iranian government

TEHRAN (AP) — President Mohammad Khatami appointed a woman as a presidential adviser Saturday, the third woman to receive a high-ranking post in his government, Tehran Radio reported. Zahra Shojai, head of the official women's cultural and social council, was named an adviser on women's affairs. She was serving as head of women's affairs at the interior ministry. In August, Mr. Khatami named Massoumeh Ebtekar, a U.S.-educated lecturer, as a vice president. Culture Minister Ataollah Mohajerani appointed Aazam Noori as deputy culture minister for legal and parliamentary affairs. The three women are the first to serve in top government posts since the

Jordan Times

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Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة
عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي



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Palestinians accuse Israel of stalling ahead of Ross mission

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — On the eve of a new mission by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross to revive the deadlocked Middle East peace process, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) accused Israel on Saturday of deliberately stalling in negotiations.

Mr. Ross was due to arrive in Israel Sunday for three days of meetings to review the results of interim negotiations held over the past two weeks and to prepare for high-level talks between the two sides in Washington on Oct. 27.

But on the eve of his visit, the PNA lashed out at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying his government was "not serious" in pursuing negotiations and was stalling in talks. "During our experience of the last week, it appears the Israelis have no intention to deal seriously with the issues of the negotiations," said Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Mr. Kanafani told Agence France Presse that during the past two weeks, negotiations on interim issues "have been going around in circles."

"During Ross' visit we must look at what can be done, and get the true picture — whether [Israel's] goal is just to buy time or to work seriously to find solutions," he said.

During his last visit to the region in early October, Mr. Ross relaunched a series of committees set up to negotiate implementation of Israeli commitments left undone from 1994 interim self-rule accords.

A surprise summit between Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Arafat on Oct. 8 then led to a series of confidence-building measures, including the release by Israel

Most Israelis don't trust Netanyahu on security — poll

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A large majority of Israelis say they no longer trust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make sound security decisions, according to a poll broadcast Friday night on Israeli television. The poll, taken by the Mita Tsemmer institute, showed that 63 per cent of Israelis said they do not trust Mr. Netanyahu when it comes to security matters, while 33 per cent said they still trust him to handle such issue.

Mr. Netanyahu was strongly criticised by the opposition and the press after Mossad spies bungled an attempt to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al last month in Amman. A representative sample of 500 Jewish-Israelis were questioned in the poll, which had a 4.5 per cent margin of error.

of millions of dollars in tax funds which it owed the cash-strapped PNA. But the Palestinian leadership, which met Friday night with Mr. Arafat in the West Bank town of Ramallah, said that despite the incremental progress in the past week there had been "no change in the Israeli viewpoint."

"The Israeli government remains insistent on its negative positions, such as freezing negotiations, and continues to talk only of security and terrorism and security measures," it said in a statement carried by its official news service, Wafa.

It warned that if negotiations remained stalled it "will shake confidence and stability."

(Continued on page 7)

Woman killed, forty injured in heavy rain

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A woman was killed Saturday and more than 40 people were injured or evacuated from their homes as a result of the heavy rain that swept the Kingdom in the past two days, official sources said.

A 35-year-old woman from Jizra town, one kilometre off Queen Alia International Airport, was killed after being swept away by water, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials. CDD teams rescued 45 citizens who were injured or trapped in their homes as a result of the heavy rains, according to Captain Farid Sharee' of the CDD. The CDD official said that the families and individuals who were evacuated were moved away to safer areas and some were accommodated in their neighbours' homes.

Five more people, whose water tanker was swept away in Jizra, were rescued by CDD teams, Cpt. Sharee' told the Jordan Times.

He added that the heavy and abrupt rain and the strong winds caused cracks in the walls of a number of old homes and two people sustained light injuries.

Strong winds tore down most of the candidates' banners, especially in western Amman, where winds were strongest.

Traffic Department official told the Jordan Times Saturday that until 6:00 p.m., there were 70 road accidents reported in the Kingdom.

"Until this time we have no official number of road accidents that occurred today, but we will know the final count after midnight tonight," the traffic official said. The Meteorological Department is forecasting more rain and thunderstorms today, with a drop in temperature resulting from the low pressure and the cold front that is affecting the eastern Mediterranean region.

A department spokesperson said temperatures, which reached a high of 23 degrees Celsius in Amman Saturday, will drop to 21 degrees Sunday during the day and will reach a low of 14 at night.

High winds carrying dust will affect the eastern regions of the Kingdom, making visibility poor in those areas, according to the spokesperson.

Low-lying areas will be flooded as rain will affect most parts of the country, the spokesperson warned.



Two women take shelter under an umbrella as they cross a road in Amman, Saturday. A woman died after being swept by floods Saturday and forty people were injured (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

Heavy rain and strong winds also swept South Shouneh in the Jordan Valley, carrying sand which caused poor visibility, according to Isam Sharee', governor of Shouneh.

The strong winds knocked trees over and disrupted telephone and electricity networks, but repair teams were fixing the damage, according to Jaafar Arabiyat, director of the Agricultural Department in Shouneh.

The official estimated the losses in the banana plants were between 20 and 50 per cent and limited parts sustained up to 70 per cent losses.

Banana farmers, however, put the losses of their crops and the destruction of the banana plastic houses

es at more than JD200,000.

Three committees have been formed to examine the damage to the agricultural products, he said.

In Salt, some streets were closed for more than an hour, because the heavy rain towed dust and rocks blocked the main roads. Water swept houses and shops in some areas of Salt.

In February of this year, three people drowned in flash floods and dozens were injured after heavy rain swept the Kingdom.

In Israel, at least five people were killed in the past two days, after torrential rains caused flash floods in areas which have been suffering from drought. International agencies reported.

At least 5 die in freak storm in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Flash floods after sudden rainstorms have killed at least five people in desert areas of southern Israel, rescue officials said on Saturday. Witnesses said a rare hailstorm in the Negev Desert city of Beersheba damaged homes and cars and piled up drifts of hailstones up to 25 cm high. Israel Radio said the storms stranded thousands of Israelis vacationing across the Egyptian border in the Sinai Peninsula. "Three people were killed and three others wounded in the Ein Gedi area when the sides of the highway collapsed in the storm, their car went off the road, overturned and was swept away in a flooded streambed," rescue officials said. Late on Friday, in another remote region near the Dead Sea, a woman taking part in a cliff-climbing trip fell into a streambed and was killed. One motorist was killed and one injured when their car went out of control and crashed near the town of Arad.

Kurdish rivals in northern Iraq declare shaky ceasefire

ANKARA (R) — Iraq's feuding Kurds kept their guns silent on Saturday, the first full day of a shaky ceasefire that the West hopes will help deny Baghdad any chance of reconciliation with its rebel Kurdish north.

One of the two main Kurdish factions said a week of heavy clashes had ended on Friday night. "I have learned it has stopped," the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Turkey representative Shazad Saib told

Reuters. But the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani demanded its foes pull back from territory won or face renewed clashes.

"The KDP will continue to uphold the ceasefire for 72 hours to give the mediators the opportunity to ensure the withdrawal of all PUK forces to their original positions," the group said in a statement.

The United States, Britain and France helped the

Kurds take control of northern Iraq after Baghdad's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war.

Diplomats say the Western powers fear factional fighting could let President Saddam Hussein back into the mountainous region. They say both sides maintain discreet contacts with Baghdad as possible insurance against the other.

Mr. Barzani invited Iraqi troops north to help him take the regional capital

(Continued on page 7)

Incumbent Muslims have better chance in Madaba; tribal rivalry governs Christian campaigns

tribut to a fully independent constituency, seem to agree that Muslim Brotherhood former Deputy Mohammad Azaideh enjoys the lion's share of public support.

Dr. Azaideh, who was expelled by the Brotherhood last week for defying the July boycott directive, "could be rewarded for his decision (to run) not only because of his political programme, but also because of his strong tribal base," the campaign manager of another Madaba candidate admitted.

A second incumbent, former Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh, is also considered a favourite due to the support of a large portion of his powerful tribe,

the 30,000-strong Bani Hamidah.

In by-elections held last month, however, the Bani Hamidas also nominated another four candidates, who are competing against Mr. Shakhaneh. They are: Ibrahim Breizat, Jamal Rawahneh, Ali Hrou, a professor at Mutah University, and engineer Ali Abu Rubeha.

Tribal disputes, meanwhile, prevented Madaba's Christian voters — around 4,000 — from agreeing on one nominee, and seven candidates are competing in this district instead.

The biggest tribe, the Azeizat, is bound to divide its 2,400 votes among three can-

didates: Suheil Twal (doctor), Nadim Twal (businessman) and Shafiq Zawaideh (former minister of housing in the 1988 government of Zeid Rifai).

Though young Suheil Twal has started an aggressive campaign and may win the backing of prominent opposition figures in Amman, observers anticipate that the division within the Azeizat will work in favour of the candidate of another tribe, Nash'at Hamameh.

In the mostly tribal panorama of Madaba, Mr. Hamameh, a Ba'athist activist, is one of the few politicised candidates. Other Christian candidates are Delfallah Haddad, Mousa

Bajali and Sanad Haddadin, who is banking on the 700 votes of his fellow tribesmen in Ma'in.

Given the high number of candidates, an analyst pointed out that the Madaba Christian seat will be won with a relatively low number of votes. In the 1993 elections, the analyst recalled, when most Madaba Christian families were almost unanimous behind one candidate, outgoing deputy Samih Farah won with 1,969 votes.

Forecasts on electoral participation are not so bright either: less than 60 per cent of the 48,644 Madaba registered voters have collected their voter cards so far, according to figures released by the

Ministry of Interior yesterday.

Though this percentage is above the national average of 50.06 per cent, it appears low when compared to other rural districts, such as Karak, where 72.5 per cent of registered voters collected their voter cards.

As for the other 17 Muslim contestants in Madaba, some voters say they will support those who have been in touch with the city throughout the past years, as opposed to those who moved to the capital and came back only for the election campaign.

"We have never seen some of these [candidates] before, and all of a sudden they come to our houses asking for votes and claiming that they repre-

sent us," a woman said. The Madaba district also includes Al Talbiyeh Palestinian refugee camp, with 8,000 residents.

According to one observer, the Talbiyeh candidate, physician Ishaq Ja'areh, who has his practice in the camp, is expected to win a considerable share of Palestinian votes.

Other candidates include: Abdul Rahim Ma'aleh, Ahmad Froukh, Awad Ruwajih, Fouzan Ajalin, Hammoud Abu Qaoud, Khalaf Abu Hanieh, Mohammad Shawablah, Mohammad Abu Kaf, Nayef Ma'amoun, Saleh Khawatreh, Sharif Rawajfeh, and Suleiman Saaded.

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By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Incumbents have better chances of winning the two Muslim seats allocated to the newly-created Madaba constituency, while tribal rivalries dominate the election bid for the Christian seat, election watchers said. Residents in this fertile agricultural district, which was promoted in May from the rank of Amman's Sixth Dis-

Iraq says it has no fear of further U.N. sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Saturday it would not fear the imposition of further U.N. sanctions, but called on Security Council members China, France and Russia to adopt an "impartial" attitude towards Baghdad.

"Iraq has no fears if the U.N. imposes new unfair sanctions or threatens to do so," the official Al Jumhuriya newspaper said. The United States on Friday postponed a move in the U.N. Security Council formally pressing for the

imposition of additional sanctions against Iraq. Western diplomats said the U.S. and British delegations decided to hold further informal consultations, signalling a willingness to compromise after Russia called for more negotiations.

The move highlighted the 15-member council's attempt to forge a united front regarding Iraq, after fears that the U.S. delegation would insist on a tough line following a threat from the Iraqi government to

sever cooperation.

The council's five permanent members are traditionally split on Iraq's policy, with Britain and the United States taking a tough line, while China, France and Russia favour a softer approach.

The Iraqi newspaper called on "the three states (China, France and Russia) to continue their positive attitude and adopt a fair, balanced and impartial position during the next council debates." Al Jumhuriya accused

Britain and the United States of ignoring "progress made by raising minor questions and presenting a venomous and aggressive resolution against Iraq."

Iraq has been under an international sanctions regime since 1990 following the invasion of Kuwait. The oil embargo can only be lifted when U.N. arms inspectors certify that Iraq has cooperated with resolutions and fully dismantled its weapons of mass destruction.

Bomb defused in Algiers mosque

ALGIERS (AFP) — Security forces defused a bomb that was set to explode in an Algiers mosque when it would be packed with people attending the Friday prayer, the daily La Tribune reported Saturday.

The three-kilogramme device was found in the El Oumma Mosque located in the western suburb of Bologhine.

Witnesses were quoted as saying that the bomb was set to go off at 1:40 p.m., at the height of the Friday prayer.

Last week, a bomb exploded during the Friday prayer in a mosque on the outskirts of Algiers, killing five worshippers and injuring several dozen people.

A second bomb was discovered in an adjoining prayer room.

In other development, a candidate from the ruling National Democratic Rally (RND) who was to stand in next week's local elections, was killed Friday along with his brother in a bomb blast in Ouled Aïel, near the capital.

The entrance to the victim's home had been booby-trapped by Islamists who had taken control of the region before the army launched an assault nearly three weeks ago.

Newspapers said the victim had apparently wanted to visit his home one last time before the army destroyed it as part of demeaning operations.

Egyptian brothers plead guilty to Cairo bus bombing

CAIRO (AFP) — The two brothers accused of killing nine German tourists and their Egyptian driver in a firebomb attack on a tourist bus in Cairo last month pleaded guilty on Saturday to premeditated murder.

Saber Abu El Ela and his brother Mahmoud pleaded guilty at a military court near the capital to charges of "premeditated murder with terrorist intentions" over the Sept. 18 attack in front of the Egyptian Museum in central Cairo.

They face the death sentence if convicted.

Seven other defendants, who are accused of providing the pair with weapons and bomb-making technology, pleaded not guilty.

Egyptian authorities had labelled Saber, 32, as mentally disturbed after the attack but an official med-

ical report made public Friday said he was "responsible for his acts and is not mentally deranged."

"My brother and I are martyrs (for Islam)," Saber said from the cage where he and Mahmoud, 24, were held in the court.

Their mother, sister and youngest brother appeared for the first time in court. The family has complained that since the arrest of Saber and Mahmoud, police have shut the bakery where they live.

At the opening of the trial on Tuesday, Saber said he carried out the attack because he wanted to kill Jews.

The military court, whose verdicts cannot be appealed, is due to hear prosecution witnesses later Saturday.



TORRENTIAL RAINS: Palestinian men pour out mud from their house in the West Bank town of Jericho that was ravaged with torrential rains on Saturday, wrecking 52 homes and causing millions of dollars in damage. Israel Radio said four people were killed in floods caused by rains overnight (AFP photo)

Omani women disappointed by poll performance

MUSCAT (AFP) — Omani women Saturday expressed disappointment with their performance in the Gulf state's consultative council elections after only two outgoing members were selected.

For the first time, women throughout the country were eligible to stand, an unprecedented move among Arab Gulf states, but there were only 27 female candidates out of a total of 736.

Electoral college voters selected 164 candidates in Thursday's poll and Sultan Qaboos will whittle that number down by half to compose the final 82-member Majlis Al Shura, or consultative council.

"The fact that the public

did not know the candidates weakened their chances," said Tayba Al Mawli, a former radio presenter who was re-elected in the province of Al Sib, near Muscat with 478 votes.

"There were a large number of women among the candidates with great ability but people didn't know them," Ms. Mawli said.

In June, Oman's sultan issued a decree allowing women throughout the country to run for office. Previously only women from the relatively liberal capital had been able to stand.

"Women in the regions other than Muscat are also to blame because they are reluctant to play a greater

role in society," said Ms. Mawli.

The other woman to be selected was former foreign ministry official Shakir Al Ghumari who won 171 votes, coming in second in Muscat province.

"Women only accounted for 10 per cent of the [15,000 member] electoral college and that proportion is too low," said Zakia Hassan Ihsan, a losing candidate in Salalah province.

"We did our best but the votes were unfairly proportioned," Ms. Ihsan said, adding that Oman remained a "tribal society where the men compete."

Most members of the outgoing Majlis were tribal leaders, leading figures in

the provinces, businessmen and academics. There was no election campaign apart from candidates lobbying support from door to door.

Among the Gulf Arab states, only Kuwait has an elected parliament but women are not allowed to vote. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have all-men consultative councils made up of designated members.

The powers of Oman's Majlis Al Shura, first set up in 1991, are strictly limited.

It can discuss and advise on economic and social affairs and question ministers but it has no legislative power nor say on foreign policy, defence or security matters.

Vietnam, Iraq agree to promote trade

BAGHDAD (R) — Vietnam and Iraq are keen to expand bilateral trade and other forms of cooperation, Baghdad newspapers reported Saturday.

The papers said senior Vietnamese officials assured visiting Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi that Hanoi was interested in enlarging the volume of trade with Baghdad under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

The papers said Mr. Zubeidi was visiting Vietnam to secure shipments of rice, black tea and other commodities in return for sales of Iraqi oil.

Mr. Zubeidi's visit is in return for a trip to Baghdad by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai in March.

Vietnam, Pakistan and Thailand have been supplying Iraq with its supplies of rice, estimated at about one million tonnes a year.

Since 1990, when U.N.

sanctions were imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait, Vietnam has been exporting to Iraq an average of 100,000 tonnes of rice and 4,000 tonnes of black tea a year.

"Iraq attaches special significance to the expansion of cooperation with Vietnam in all fields," the papers quoted Mr. Zubeidi as telling his Vietnamese hosts.

"The deputy Prime Minister [Zubeidi] lauded Vietnam's stand in support of lifting the sanctions on Iraq," they added.

Diplomats in Baghdad said Mr. Zubeidi wanted to secure large rice sales to Iraq under the oil-for-food accord.

Under the deal which took effect last December, Iraq is allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medicine for its population, which has been suffering widespread shortages as a result of the U.N. sanctions.

Iran's supreme leader says Iran providing own military gear

'Despite his emphasis on defence needs, Iran opposes stockpiling weapons'

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the country was meeting its military hardware needs domestically, the official news agency IRNA reported.

"Today, our experts in the army and in the [Revolutionary Guards] manufacture our military requirements domestically, though national interests do not warrant our publishing the list of our nationally manufactured military defence hardware," he said.

The agency said Mr. Khamenei was addressing 50,000 members of the guards and Basij paramilitary volunteers at Sarallah

military camp in Karaj, near Tehran, Friday.

His remarks came on the last day of annual war-games, code-named "Pirouzi [Victory] 8," which were staged by Iran's regular and revolutionary guards navies.

Iran frequently reports on the domestic production of military hardware. On Tuesday it said it had successfully tested a locally-built pilotless Stealth aircraft during the war-games.

Another IRNA report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp, quoted an Iranian naval commander as saying Friday that Iran's successful test of an improved missile system

during the exercises made it the region's top missile power.

"The Qare'eh [Striker] missile system has turned the Islamic Republic of Iran into the most powerful missile force in the region," Second Rear-Admiral Mohammad Razi Hadayeq said.

Mr. Khamenei said that despite his country's emphasis on defence needs, it opposed stockpiling weapons.

"We must hold defence issues as important but not by stockpiling arms, like some governments which spend billions of dollars to import equipment produced by American compa-

nies and their experts," he said in remarks carried by state-run television and also monitored by the BBC.

During his speech at the Sarallah camp, Mr. Khamenei also called on U.S. forces to leave the Gulf, saying they caused insecurity in the region.

The United States maintains a steady military presence in the Gulf as part of a multinational maritime interception force, checking shipping to and from Iraq and conducting operations and exercises with Gulf Arab and Western allied navies.

"By their presence in the region, the Americans have

engendered insecurity in the region, and created threats of explosions and blasts and of war, and have thereby made the nations of the region suspicious of each other," Mr. Khamenei said.

"The Americans, therefore, must get out of the region and return to their own territorial waters," he said.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz passed through the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday with its battle group of six warships to reinforce the eight destroyers, frigates and other U.S. warships already in the Gulf.

Iran Monday for the first time accused Washington

of spying on the war-games and vowed it would "react decisively" to aggressive acts by the U.S. fleet.

"A nation that has manifested its unique character on the various scenes of the revolution, war, and national construction with faith and with belief in humanity and in divine and in spiritual values will not submit to thuggish threats," Mr. Khamenei told the gathering.

"On the basis of that philosophy [Iran] challenges the basics of the idea that condones the presence of the U.S. [navy] in the Persian Gulf and in the Sea of Oman," he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Little Rosey
14:30 Jonny Quest
14:50 The Magic School Bus
15:00 Energy Express
15:30 American Chart Show
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 The struggle for Democracy
21:10 Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 One West Walkie
23:15 Sisters
23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:20 Fajr
05:37 (Sunrise) Duha
11:21 Dhuhur
14:33 Asr
17:04 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 632826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 632826.

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in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

winds westerly to northwesterly

moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies

will be cloudy to partly cloudy.

rainy, winds northerly moderate to

active, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman 21/15

Aqaba 27/17

Deserts 24/14

Jordan Valley 27/17

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 23, Aqaba 28 Humidity

readings: Amman 93 per cent.

Aqaba 92 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446

Dr. Ararat Al Ashbab 602507

Dr. Ayman Al Mubtaseb 875748

Dr. Jamal Jbarah 847351

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778396

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Naioukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeissani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fawzi Abu Al Hattaj 252970

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ya'qoub Al Khatib 9917720

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeissani 607071

Shmeissani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Arnal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

Zarqa National Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983323

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

Greek Catholic Hospital

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeissani 607071

Shmeissani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Arnal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

Zarqa National Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983323

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

Greek Catholic Hospital

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

Public sector health professionals plan two-hour work stoppage tomorrow

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 3,255 public sector doctors, dentists, and pharmacists tomorrow will stage a two-hour work stoppage from eight until ten in the morning in protest against the Ministry of Health's delay in honouring an agreement on increasing their wages.

The decision was taken by the three professions' associations following their meeting with the minister of health to discuss demands, which they said achieved nothing.

The presidents of the three associations, Bassem Dajani (doctors), Sa'id Abu Maizar (dentists), and Abdul Rahim Issa (pharmacists), said should the government fail to meet their demands, a four-hour work stoppage would be observed Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and an open strike would start Saturday.

Dr. Abu Maizar said the discussions with the Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi were open and frank but led nowhere, prompting the strikers to go ahead with their work stoppage plans.

Cabinet endorses plan to privatise telecommunications company

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday endorsed recommendations by the Higher Ministerial Committee on the privatisation of the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC).

After the regular Cabinet session, Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Nasser Lawzi announced that the following were decided:

1 - To sell 40 per cent of JTC shares to a strategic partner, to be selected in accordance with international tender regulations and criteria.

2 - To provide the JTC with a licence to establish, manage, and operate a mobile network, which will be operational as of Nov. 1, 1998, after the expiration of the exclusive mandate of the

Workshop focuses on means of reducing rural poverty

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HASHIMI AL SHAMALI — Ways and means to eradicate poverty in rural areas are the focus of a six-day workshop that opened yesterday at the Queen Zein Sharaf Centre under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma.

Praising the Queen Alia Fund for "having been on the fore-front to fight poverty," the British expert highlighted the importance of a constructive exchange of experience and information between institutions involved in poverty-oriented projects in different countries.

Deputising for Princess Basma, Hisham Khatib, member of the Board of Directors at the Queen Alia Fund, emphasised the burden that regional political and economic development has imposed on the Kingdom.

Man accused of Kingdom's 19th 'honour' murder in custody

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities are interrogating a 29-year-old man who last week reportedly shot and killed his younger sister in Jabal Al Nasser for reasons of "honour," according to official sources.

First Engineering Week to cover aspects of civil construction

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Nasser Lawzi Saturday deputed for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at the opening of the First Engineering Week, held at the University of Jordan.

The discussion programme, which is being attended by 180 engineers from the public and private sectors, the Jordan Armed Forces, and the Civil Defence Department, was organised by the civil engineering branch of the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA).

Participants in the three-day meeting are scheduled to review 42 working papers, covering road construction, building materials, engineering management, construction and the environment, and an overview of a number of engineering projects in Jordan.

Civil engineer representative Mohammad Abu Afifeh said the seminar, which is being attended by engineers from Arab and foreign countries as guests, will allow the delegates to exchange ideas and views on civil engineering.

Subject poverty in the Kingdom, as well as elsewhere, plagues rural areas more severely, leading to environmental degradation, accelerating uncontrolled urbanisation, and imposing serious strains on public infrastructure and basic services.

Hence, experts participating in the workshop said, the need to train specialised personnel from governmental and non-governmental organisations in designing and implementing rural poverty eradication projects.

Elimination of rural poverty through income-generating projects, experts maintained, will enable rural communities to survive and even prosper, thus reducing the tremendous growth rate of urban suburbs, especially in the Amman area, and preserving the rural environment.

Hana travelled with her lover to Syria for one week, and when she returned, she hid at her uncle's house," one official source said.

He said the week's activities are divided into two parts, noting that after the first three days, the engineers will convene for another three days starting Tuesday to focus attention on engineering training, utilisation of locally-produced building materials, and other relevant topics. On the sidelines of the meetings, the JEA has organised an exhibition of engineering equipment and projects by local engineers in various specialisations.

Delegates to the meetings include representatives from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Palestine, Algeria, and Jordan.

The audience of the First Engineering Week listens to one of speeches at the opening session. A total of 180 public and private sector engineers will discuss working papers on such topics as road construction and building materials (Petra photo)

He said the week's activities are divided into two parts, noting that after the first three days, the engineers will convene for another three days starting Tuesday to focus attention on engineering training, utilisation of locally-produced building materials, and other relevant topics. On the sidelines of the meetings, the JEA has organised an exhibition of engineering equipment and projects by local engineers in various specialisations.

The facilitator in the workshop, organised by the Queen Alia Fund and the British Council, is Joseph Mullen, from the Institute for Development Policy and Management at the University of Manchester, U.K.

In his presentation at the opening session of the workshop, Dr. Mullen, who will contribute his operational project experience in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, stressed that fighting poverty

ies and research papers dealing with issues of concern to the various Islamic sects.

On Wednesday, the programme includes field study visits to marginalised communities and ongoing poverty elimination projects.

Court sets trial date for four charged with plotting to attack Israel

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court last week set Oct. 20 as the date to begin the trial of four men accused of plotting to launch assaults against Israel during the month of Ramadan, official sources said.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the four men, who met in June, had planned to infiltrate Israel through Wadi Araba in southern Jordan.

The four were arrested in July before carrying out any attacks, the charge sheet said.

Authorities found two grenades and a machine gun in their possession.

Seminar on human rights in Islam opens tomorrow in Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Research (AI al Bayt Foundation) tomorrow opens a three-day seminar in Rabat, Morocco, on human rights in Islam, under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the foundation's supreme president.

Foundation Chairman Nassereddin Assad, who will depute for the Crown Prince at the opening session, Saturday said the delegates, who are scholars representing Arab and Muslim countries, will discuss a number of stud-

ies and research papers dealing with issues of concern to the various Islamic sects.

Ms. Mahmoud's death brings the total number of women killed this year in the Kingdom in the name of honour to 19, the same number of women killed in Jordan last year for the same reason.

Officials have linked the four to the outlawed group, Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), of which ten members were convicted by the State Security Court last October on charges of attempted sabotage and slandering the King.

One of the convicted men, Mohammad Taber Mohammad, known also as Abu Mohammad Al Maqdisi, sentenced to 15 years and whom the prosecution charged was the group's leader, said in an interview with a magazine in 1996 that he knew the four men who

were involved in the November 1995 bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which killed five Americans and two Indian nationals.

The four men told interrogators prior to their beheading that they were influenced by the philosophies of various Islamic militant leaders, including Al Maqdisi.

The seminar will focus on three main topics: religious and political rights and freedoms, cultural, economic, and social rights, and human rights and international relations, he said.

Dr. Assad noted that a total of 15 research papers will be reviewed, adding that at least 30 scholars and intellectuals from Jordan, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, and Iran will take part in the seminar.

Since 1992, the AI al Bayt Foundation has been organising seminars and dialogues among Muslims representing various Islamic sects.

The first three were held in Amman and the fourth was held in London in 1996.

Nature society launches membership drive

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Increasing the number of members of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) was the major goal behind the membership campaign that was launched last week, according to Salma Atef, head of the fundraising and public relations section at the RSCN.

The aim of the campaign is to build grassroots support, since nature conservation and the protection of the environment is no longer a topic that concerns only certain individuals and organisations but rather everyone, Ms. Atef said in her opening speech.

The theme of the campaign was "By unity and harmony, we can make a difference," which refers to the belief that nature conservation is a personal concern of all citizens, including students, housewives, employees, farmers, businesspeople, and others, she explained.

The RSCN upgraded the membership system by introducing new membership categories, such as individual, family, student (with a 50 per cent discount), and corporate membership categories, Ms. Atef explained.

WHAT'S GOING ON

"Malambo" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

Art Gallery, Umm Utheina, until Oct. 30.

CONCERT

* Musical performance by Freddy For Music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

* "The Project of the Essence: Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90s," at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

MOTOR SHOW

* "Motor Show 98" at the Amman International Motor Show (Tel. 714211) until Oct. 20.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658896/7), until Oct. 30.

LECTURE

* "Development of Music to Polyphony" by Helmut Burkard at the National Music Conservatory at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 687620).

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterranea" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

EXHIBITIONS

* Ceramics exhibition by Ra'd Dlaini at Orfali

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

Communists mull moves in row with Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Communists held a tense, closed-door meeting Saturday to decide whether to try to topple the government or reach a compromise over its economic reforms.

Delegates gathered for a plenary meeting amid great secrecy, three days after Communist Party Leader Gennady Zyuganov upset the party's radical wing by putting off a parliamentary vote of no confidence in the cabinet for a week.

Mr. Zyuganov's tactical retreat, after an appeal for reason by President Boris Yeltsin, has been followed by signs that both sides are prepared to try to hammer out a deal.

But the Communist leader, who sets great store by collective decision-making, has yet to unite his party behind him.

"The Communist Party plenum which will take place today has the chance either to work out a range

of conditions or oblige the faction to vote for the no confidence motion," the leftist newspaper Sovyetskaya Rossiya said Saturday.

Journalists were not allowed into the meeting, but radical leaders of the left opposition made their dissatisfaction with Mr. Zyuganov clear.

"From now on, after the open collusion with the authorities, the leaders of the Communist faction have no right to call themselves an opposition," they said in a joint statement carried by ITAR-TASS news agency.

TASS quoted a source at the meeting as saying that many participants had strongly criticised Mr. Zyuganov but that most nevertheless opposed replacing him at the head of the party.

Mr. Zyuganov said Friday a decision on the no confidence vote, now slated for Wednesday, would ultimately

depend on how Mr. Yeltsin reacts to demands including a two-year nationwide freeze on rent increases and opposition to television.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais has already been quoted by Interfax news agency as saying some of the Communists' conditions for shelving the vote are "quite acceptable" and "workable and substantive."

Some, such as setting up supervisory panels for state broadcasters, would be decided on within days. But others, such as the rent freeze, would face government resistance, he said.

Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin are due to hold conciliation talks Monday with the Communist speaker of the state Duma (Lower House of Parliament) Gennady Zelyayev and the Upper House speaker, Yegor Stroyev.

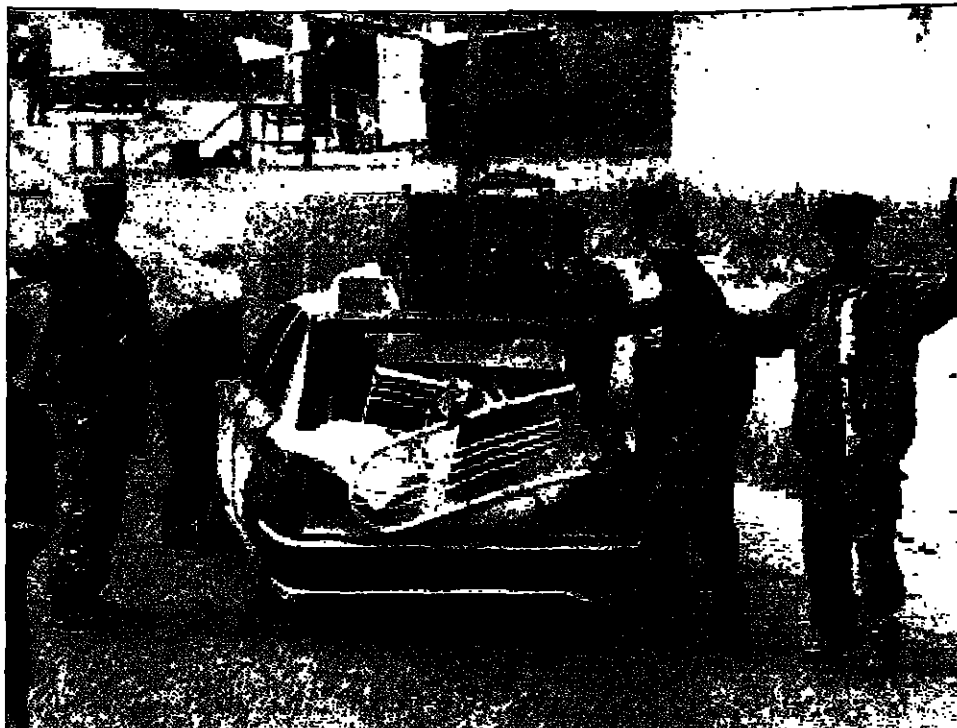
They are expected to set a schedule for broader "roundtable" talks, offered by the government as a concession to the Communists, who are seeking to soften the impact of reforms.

Sovyetskaya Rossiya said that the Communists should not be too quick to trust the government to stick to any pledges it may make in the course of negotiations.

"A delayed no confidence vote would have to serve as a sword of Damocles, encouraging the government to carry out its promises," it said.

But while Mr. Zyuganov, 53, bitterly condemned the government's record in a speech to the Duma last Wednesday, he is wary of Mr. Yeltsin carrying out threats to dismiss the assembly.

The president can disband the chamber if it votes no confidence in the government twice in three months and Mr. Yeltsin could find ways to force a showdown.



BRAZZAVILLE SCENE: Looters continued Saturday to strip the Congolese capital Brazzaville as residents began returning to their homes in northern districts held by partisans of General Denis Sassou Nguesso. A military official said Mr. Sassou Nguesso had designated "lootable" districts following his victory in the country's civil war, but his orders were being ignored and looting was taking place in other areas. Members of Mr. Sassou Nguesso's Cobra militia were systematically emptying homes in the centre of the city and in residential areas but a fuel shortage and a lack of vehicles was hampering their activities. Embassies were also being targeted, but militiamen intervened to stop looting at the Chinese embassy. In front of the French embassy, three weary-looking guards said several looters had been arrested Friday evening and Saturday. French gendarmes arrived in Brazzaville Friday to assess the damage at the embassy, which was abandoned by its staff due to the fierce fighting. The Red Cross, meanwhile, was recovering the last dead bodies off the city streets. Mr. Sassou Nguesso's troops this week seized control of the capital and Pointe Noire, the main oil city and the country's economic powerhouse, in a sudden end to four months of fighting that has left thousands dead.

Interpol backs Indian call for global extradition treaty

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Interpol is to appeal to the United Nations to adopt a global extradition treaty to fight international terrorism and drug trafficking, a spokesman said Saturday.

The 66th General Assembly of the International Police Organisation, attended by 600 officials from 135 countries, backed the resolution late Friday.

The conference said international legal status should be given to Interpol's "red corner notices", the equivalent of a global arrest warrant. Many countries currently rely on bilateral extradition treaties.

An Interpol spokesman said: "Friday's negotiations focused on an Interpol report which asks all members of the organisation to urge their respective governments to accord legal status to the notices."

He said the resolution was drawn up after proposals put forward by 12 countries, including the host India.

The conference, the biggest Interpol event to date, was inaugurated on Wednesday when Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said a global extradition pact should be made a priority.

He said it would end "agonising negotiations for extradition of most sought-after criminals." "An international convention has to be built and a universal extradition treaty has to become a part of the U.N. system to fight international crime."

India has served hundreds of red corner notices with several countries including the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan.

The Interpol conference, due to end on Tuesday, agreed that bilateral extradition treaties had not yielded satisfactory results.

Interpol has been criticised for failing to execute almost 50 per cent of its red corner notices issued against international fugitives each year.

U.S. says India talks positive but long way to go

NEW DELHI (R) — India and the United States Saturday reported progress in improving bilateral ties after the first phase of a strategic dialogue, but cautioned there was still a long way to go.

"We have begun a long and determined process to improve ties," U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering told a news conference in the Indian capital at the end of a two-day visit.

Mr. Pickering's visit laid the groundwork for a season of visits to climax in a summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral early next year.

Divided over issues of trade, nuclear disarmament and United Nations reforms, the two countries have agreed on a deeper and wider engagement to go beyond problem areas, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Pickering is the third-ranking official at the U.S. State Department. His visit was part of a fresh Washington initiative to broaden contacts with India, which was seen as on

the other side of the political fence during the cold war.

He said he was pleased after his talks with Indian officials. "I am happy and satisfied after the first phase of this dialogue, but I must tell you we have a long way to go."

Mr. Pickering held discussions with India's Foreign Secretary K. Raghunath, the country's top diplomat. Friday, the two discussed bilateral, regional and global issues.

Both sides stuck to their core beliefs on issues of nuclear disarmament, but officials said there was greater understanding of each other's positions.

"We have a clearer picture, that is the idea of this dialogue. Of course there are serious differences," Mr. Raghunath said.

India, a nuclear threshold state, has refused to accept a global non-proliferation accord, while the U.S. has expressed its desire for New Delhi to implement disarmament measures.

"We have laid the foundation for the future, there are no grand deals or bargains, that was not the purpose

and no such eventuality came up," Mr. Pickering said.

Asked about India's quest for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, Mr. Pickering said America would not oppose India's entry if India came through as a regional representative or through a rotational system.

The United States was enthusiastic about efforts by India and Pakistan to resume dialogue to ease their 50-year-old enmity, including the territorial dispute over Kashmir.

"We will do everything possible to prosper this dialogue started by prime ministers Gujral and Sharif," Mr. Pickering said.

Mr. Gujral and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif have held two meetings this year to speed up peace talks.

Mr. Pickering was scheduled to travel on to Pakistan Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright travels to both India and Pakistan next month, followed by a Clinton visit early next year, the first in over twenty years by a U.S. president.

At least 12 dead in Colombian coal mine blast

BOGOTA (R) — At least 12 coal miners were killed and three others were missing and believed dead after an explosion ripped through a state-run mine in north-east Colombia, officials said Saturday.

Rescue workers said the blast was believed to have been caused by a buildup of methane gas inside the state-run El Diviso mine, in an area just outside the city of Cucuta on Colombia's border with Venezuela.

Hector Dario Nino, a spokesman for the government's Civil Defence or Disaster Relief Agency, said the bodies of a dozen miners were pulled out of the collapsed mine in the aftermath of the explosion and three others were missing and presumed dead.

"They're probably already gone, it's just a question of recovering their corpses," Mr. Nino told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He conceded that one or two of the missing may have been holding on to "a thread of life." But he stressed that this was highly unlikely given the force of the blast and the subsequent cave-in.

The mine was operated by Ecocarbon, Colombia's state-run coal company, which was expected to issue a statement on the cause of the tragedy later Saturday.

A lone survivor interviewed on local television said the explosion, which caused several shafts to flatten like pancakes, was "like a big bomb" but he offered no details on its cause or how many of his co-workers were confirmed to have been buried alive.

Colombia is the fourth-largest coal producer in the world after Australia, Poland and South Africa. Work conditions inside the country's mines has often been described as precarious, with inadequate ventilation and labourers, often underage, contracted from the ranks of the poorest Colombians — regardless of their lack of any prior experience.

Miners have no labour union or confederation in Colombia to press for better labour conditions or the enforcement of safety guidelines that might make their work less dangerous.

Queen's 'friendship' tour to India highlights divisions

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth Saturday ended a six-day tour aimed at cementing relations with India but widely written off here as a divisive fiasco.

The queen, whose trip coincided with India's 50th anniversary of independence, left with Prince Philip from Madras, the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

The visit, blighted by reported political rows and diplomatic arguments, followed a successful visit to neighbouring Pakistan, also celebrating half-a-century of freedom following the end of the British Raj.

It was the first British royal tour since the death of Diana, Prince of Wales, in a car crash at the end of August in Paris.

The Times of India, putting most of the blame on British officials, said the Indian leg would be remembered as a "controversial misadventure" rather than the "goodwill mission it was billed to be. The trip was jinxed from the word go."

The Asian Age added: "Nothing has gone right and, in fact, matters came to a point where the historical relationship between India and the United Kingdom came under serious threat."

"She will leave the country leaving a bitter taste behind. Instead of cementing ties, it has exposed the fragility of the relationship of which both countries seem to be so proud. The strain is showing."

ing."

The problems dogging the trip, the queen's third following the visits of 1961 and 1983, began when Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, accompanying the royal couple, reportedly offered British help in solving the 50-year dispute with Pakistan over the divided Kashmir.

Official denials flew thick and fast for the next six days amid media reports that India had accused Britain of "interference" and of being a "third-rate power" itself responsible for the Kashmir problem.

Prince Philip was then accused by the media of querying the number killed in a 1919 civilian massacre by British troops, while the Indian authorities reportedly cancelled a thank-you speech by the queen in Madras at the last moment, citing protocol.

One newspaper later said the queen had also complained that New Delhi was a dirty city.

Friday Buckingham Palace, in what was interpreted as a last-ditch damage-limitation exercise, denied reports that the queen was unhappy with the visit or with the warmth of her reception. Certainly there were few problems on the streets.

The Indian government feared demonstrations could mar the royal visit to Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, where, according to official figures, 379 people

were shot dead and around 1,200 wounded by British troops at a peaceful protest meeting.

But British officials were delighted with the reception granted to the royal couple as they laid a wreath at the memorial site.

A group representing relatives of the victims, who earlier demanded a public apology, said they were satisfied with the gesture of reconciliation.

Three small demonstrations by fringe groups took place, followed by smaller ones in other parts of the country.

Mushirul Hasan, a historian quoted in the Indian Express, reflecting on the trip, said that while Britain had followed a damaging "divide and rule" policy in India "we should endeavour to strengthen rather than weaken our ties with the United Kingdom."

Kashmir, he said, "should not stand in the way of an enduring trade and business relationship."

"Are we prepared to be isolated in the international arena just because someone has a different point of view on Kashmir?"

The British media, however, has also given the tour the thumbs-down. Newspaper cartoons showed Indians hurriedly rolling up a red carpet behind the queen as she left. Another showed her riding on the back of an elephant which was snorting water in her face with its trunk.

U.S. journalist interviews Khmer Rouge's Pol Pot — sources

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The American journalist who in July became the first outsider for 18 years to see and photograph notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot has returned to the rebels' jungle base to interview him, journalistic sources said Saturday.

Nate Thayer of the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review magazine, reached in Bangkok, declined to comment on his trip to the northern Cambodian town of Anlong Veng, citing obligations to the Review.

But sources said he interviewed Mr. Pol Pot, to whom he was unable to speak in July. Clandestine Khmer Rouge Radio said Saturday that Thayer spent several hours Friday speaking with Khieu Samphan, the rebels' nominal chief, at his base in Anlong Veng. It did not mention an interview with Pol Pot.

The Khmer Rouge, now allied with supporters of deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh against the Phnom Penh government, have for the past month been hinting that an interview with Pol Pot was possible.

At least two other Americans — Cambodia scholar Stephen Heder and journalist Elizabeth Becker of the New York Times, who interviewed Pol Pot in 1978 — had also travelled to the Thai-Cambodian border seeking an interview last week.

"I was refused," Ms. Becker told AFP by telephone from Thailand's Surin province before returning to Bangkok. It was not clear if any conditions had been attached to Thayer's interview, which is believed to have been videotaped.

In July, the Khmer Rouge invited Thayer to Anlong Veng to witness Pol Pot's show trial. Members of the movement denounced the ageing for-

mer leader for treason, sentenced him to "life in prison" and proclaimed that his regime was finished.

The Khmer Rouge, under the direction of "Brother Number One" Pol Pot, were responsible for the deaths of as many as two million Cambodians during their period in power from 1975 to 1979.

The Cambodian government has proposed the creation of an international tribunal to try Pol Pot and other Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide. But during Pol Pot's "trial" the guerrillas made it clear they would not turn over their former leader.

Saturday's clandestine broadcast reported a summary of Thayer's meeting with Khieu Samphan. "Khieu Samphan said that the energetic fight of the resistance forces and the Khmer people against the enemy during the past four months had made progress on all fronts," the radio

said.

Much of the rest of the interview contained the customary Khmer Rouge propaganda against the Phnom Penh government and powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, whom the guerrillas claim is a puppet of their arch enemy, the Vietnamese.

Hun Sen "has always been a true, fascist dictator before and after the military coup of July 5 and 6 which he did to destroy and wipe out (all Khmers) completely," the radio said, referring to the ousting of Prince Ranariddh in July.

The radio said Khieu Samphan had "given Thayer evidence proving that the 'Communist Vietnamese' had committed great crimes against the Cambodian people."

Khieu Samphan called for next scheduled elections "free" and "demo-

Hillary Clinton, nearing 50, 'more active and popular than ever'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — As Hillary Clinton approaches her 50th birthday, her packed agenda and high approval ratings show that after five years in the White House, she is more active and more popular than ever.

The first lady, who is with her husband on an official visit to South America, will soon head to Ireland and is preparing for a conference on childhood — all before a grand tour of Central Asia in November.

Mrs. Clinton, who will celebrate her birthday Oct. 26, has returned to the forefront after a period of retreat since the last presidential campaign, when she opted for a more traditional role.

Critics' charges that she is aggressive, the failure of her proposed health care reforms and the Whitewater scandal all seem to be forgotten. The public now sees only the smiling face of a happy woman on the cover of Time magazine.

For the first time since her arrival in the White House, Mrs. Clinton enjoys a high popularity rating.

According to a U.S. News and World Report survey, 59 per cent of American voters have a favourable opinion of the first lady and 67 per cent approve of her work in the White House

— an better rating than that of President Bill Clinton.

And according to surveys conducted by the White House, her popularity has never been so high.

Following her distress at the departure of daughter Chelsea for college, Mrs. Clinton jumped into a whirlwind of activities. According to her staff, she will only spend two or three nights in the White House during the next few weeks.

After her recent participation in a historic summit in Panama of first ladies of the Americas, Mrs. Clinton accompanied her husband in Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil.

When she returns to Washington, the first lady will hold a conference on childhood at the White House and will be the guest of honour at the annual gala of Africare, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to development projects in Africa.

She will then travel to Ireland, North Ireland and Great Britain at the end of the month before a ten-day tour of Central Asia which will include Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Mrs. Clinton also plans to travel to Chicago, where she was born, on the day of her birthday.

"Turning 50 does not bother me," she said recently

to a group of journalists. "Being told or sort of realising that I'm a half of a century old, that's different."

"But it's my daughter going to college more than any birthday that's marked a turning point," she added. Mrs. Clinton has also begun to consider the time when she and her husband will leave the White House, and probably return to Arkansas, in 2001.

Bill Clinton, who will be 54 years old, will be the youngest ex-president of the United States, with the exception of Theodore Roosevelt, who was barely 50 years old when he left office.

Bill Clinton is looking forward to his return to Arkansas, according to Hillary. "We'll also spend time in lots of other places," she said.

Although she would not give concrete details about her plans for the future, friends say the first lady has ambitious projects, such as seeking a Senate post from Illinois, heading a university or directing a foundation.

Hillary Clinton is not the only one facing her second half-century; the "baby-boomer" generation, to which Bill Clinton belongs, includes 76 million Americans.

Interpol backs Indian call for global extradition treaty

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Interpol has backed the Indian call for a global extradition treaty to fight international terrorism, drug trafficking and other transnational crimes.

The Interpol General Assembly, which opened in London on Saturday, will discuss the Indian proposal.

The Indian proposal, which was drafted by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, calls for a global extradition treaty to fight international terrorism, drug trafficking and other transnational crimes.

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A U.S. C-130 Hercules drops about 12,000 litres of water during a demonstration in Jakarta. Three of the C-130 Hercules, together with about 60 U.S. Airborne Fire Fighters, will be used to help fight Indonesia's forest fires. Their first mission is to Tanjung Puting, central Kalimantan on the island of Borneo (Reuter photo)

Relief trickles into drought-hit eastern Indonesian province

JAKARTA (AFP) — More food and medicine will be flown later Saturday to Indonesia's eastern province of Irian Jaya where at least 462 people have died in a drought-related famine, officials said.

A Hercules transport plane carrying food, medicine and aviation fuel will fly to Wamena, capital of the drought-hit district of Jayawijaya, an official at the disaster control centre in the provincial capital of Jayapura said.

The Irian Jaya military command was also sending doctors and paramedics to

Wamena, he added. The last batch of food and medicine was flown to Wamena Monday.

The drought which started in March is threatening at least 90,000 tribespeople in the district. A total of 462 people have died there and in the neighbouring districts of Puncakjaya and Merauke since August.

The head of the Jayawijaya district, J.B. Wenas was quoted by Antara news agency as saying distribution of food and medical relief had been hampered by thick smoke from forest fires which still covered much of the mountainous

district. Most areas in Jayawijaya could only be reached by small aircraft such as Cessna planes and helicopters, he said.

The fires have already consumed 6,217 hectares (15,355 acres) of forest in the Lorentz national park in Jayawijaya.

Wenas told AFP on Thursday that this year's prolonged drought and hailstorms had badly damaged the staple crop of yam and threatened at least 90,000 of the district's 500,000 people with serious food shortages. Malnutrition greatly

weakened resistance to various diseases.

The Missionary Aviation Fellowship, the Christian mission's airline that is the backbone of Irian Jaya's transportation system, has put four of its fleet of 14 Cessna planes at the disposal of relief workers. Giant mining concern Freeport Indonesia has lent one of its helicopters.

Wenas has expressed fears that unless more intensive relief efforts are made, the number of victims will rise in coming months. He said yam crops, if planted now, would only mature in eight months.

Germany urges Japan to bow to whale-hunt ban

BONN (AFP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said he would be urging Japan to respect the 1986 moratorium on whale-hunting during his next visit to Tokyo.

In an article for Sunday's edition of the Bild newspaper, Mr. Kinkel wrote that he would "urge Japan to abandon its resistance to a ban on whale-hunting and to conform to rules set by the International Whaling Commission."

The commission will meet in Monaco Monday when, for the first time since the passing of the 1986 moratorium on whale-hunting, it will discuss the possibility of reaching a compromise.

Ireland, which Monday takes over the chairmanship of the IWC for three years, will suggest the limited resumption of commercial whaling in coastal waters by countries such as Japan and Norway in return for their strict observance of an international ban elsewhere.

Norway never signed up to the moratorium on whaling so it continues to hunt freely while Japan hunts in the name of science.

Mr. Kinkel stated that he understood that whale-hunting was part of Japanese and Norwegian cultures, but he underlined that "each year they are killing more and more small whales." He particularly called for an end to killing by electric harpoon.

A total of 1,043 whales have been slaughtered so far this year compared with 383 in 1992. All this whaling is legal under current arrangements.

The 33-member nation IWC has no powers to impose any whaling ban. There has to be a consensus.

Japan seeking removal of fines in port dispute with U.S.

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese shipowners, welcoming an overnight breakthrough in a dispute with the United States over harbour services, called Saturday for the removal of retaliatory duties on their U.S. port calls.

The two governments agreed during marathon talks in Washington Friday to avert a ban on the use of U.S. ports by three Japanese shipping firms which had failed to pay the fines.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto hailed the agreement. "It is natural and favourable that we can avert sanctions under our bilateral trade treaty of amity," the prime minister told reporters.

The fines were imposed in September on the grounds that Japan had refused to ease costly restrictions on foreign ships operating in Japanese ports.

"As the Japanese government has listed this problem (fines) on the agenda, we have high expectations on the outcome of the ongoing talks," Kentaro Kawamura, head of the Japanese Shipowners Association, told a news conference.

Noboru Sakata, the association's chief negotiator on port and harbour affairs, said the fines were "unreasonable in the first place."

"We want to consult with the government before deciding whether or not we can pay them without any doubt on our mind," he added.

Masazumi Nagamitsu, deputy vice minister of

transport, said the government hoped that all sanctions, including the fines — against Nippon Yusen K.K., Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd., and Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd. — would be retracted.

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) moved Thursday to stop Japanese container ships from entering or leaving U.S. ports as the companies balked at paying the fines of \$100,000 for each port visit from abroad.

Following the government-level accord, the FMC decided to postpone asking the U.S. Coast Guard to enforce the access ban.

But the independent government agency said \$4 million in fines for September, due Wednesday, was integral to any final solution of the dispute.

President Bill Clinton, currently visiting Argentina, hailed the agreement in principle, saying it would "open trade in Japan's ports and level the playing field for American shippers."

In Friday's talks, Japan agreed to streamline the licensing procedures at its ports and to create an independent agency to monitor the harbour system.

Under the Japanese port system, foreign shipping companies are not permitted to choose who will unload their ships or even to negotiate the price of the job. They are not allowed to establish their own companies to provide port services, even though Japan-

ese firms can do so in the United States.

Arcane rules also raise costs and reduce flexibility by requiring prior approval for even minor cargo-handling changes.

The ruling body is the powerful Japan Harbour Transportation Association, a well-connected private group of dockworkers and terminal operators resistant to outside influence.

The three companies, according to the U.S. National Industrial Transportation League, account for about 10 to 11 per cent of the estimated \$180 billion in annual U.S.-Japan ship trade.

U.S.-Japan trade ties are already tense, bedeviled by disputes over U.S. auto sales on Japanese markets, civil aviation deregulation and Tokyo's large surplus with Washington.

The development has showed once again the Japanese government cannot act on labour-management customs without the threat of retaliation or external pressure, the influential daily Asahi Shimbun said.

"For long, the Japanese economy has been assigned with the task to correct regulations and business practices which have blocked competition leading to better economic efficiency," the commentary said.

"It can be said that the problem of harbour services has pointedly shown the government's low capacity in pursuing reform and its lack of policy."

Mafia boss arrested in Sicily

PALERMO, Sicily (AFP) — Italian police arrested a Mafia boss in a house in Sicily where he was hiding from fear of being assassinated by hired Mafia killers, judicial officials said Saturday.

Police had expected to find the criminal son of 74-year-old Giovanni Genovese in the cache near the village of

Giuseppe Jato.

Mr. Genovese was sitting outside the house in the company of his wife when heavily armed carabinieri closed in.

Press reports said he tried to shield his wife when he saw the armed men surround the house, fearing that they would kill them, and shouted

"cowards." He was reportedly relieved when the killers turned out to be police.

The name of Mr. Genovese's 54-year-old son Salvatore is on a list of 500 most-wanted criminals in connection with the di Maggio affair.

Baldassare di Maggio, who was arrested Monday on homicide charges, is one of

Australia sends oil spill experts to Singapore

SYDNEY (R) — A team of environmental and maritime experts left Australia for Singapore Saturday to advise authorities there on how to clean up the worst oil spill in the island state's history, rescue officials said.

Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokesman David Gray said the six-member team, including two environmental protection experts, would support Singapore in an advisory role.

The Australian assistance comes after four Japanese boats joined a round-the-clock operation to clean up Wednesday's spill, which poured 25,000 tonnes of heavy marine fuel oil into the Singapore Strait.

"They will be advising Singapore port authorities on oil collection equipment like skimmers," Mr. Gray told Reuters.

"There are various types of models. They just sit on top of the water and collect the oil and then pump it into floating holding tanks."

"I understand they have been using spray dispersants and had good results but they obviously have got a lot of oil to collect," Mr. Gray said, adding Australia would not yet be sending any equipment.

Environmentalists say skimmers such as those sent by Japan are the best way to tackle oil spills that have the potential to cause serious damage to marine life.

Singapore sent 38 boats

into action following the Wednesday night collision between the Cyprus-registered tanker Eviokos and the empty Thai supertanker Orapi Global. The United States, Japan and Australia have since been asked for assistance.

The arrival of the Japanese boats doubles the number of skimmers to eight. The others spray detergent-like chemicals onto the slicks to break the oil down into small droplets that marine micro-organisms can devour.

Singapore is using helicopters to track the slicks across the Singapore Strait, one of the world's busiest shipping routes connecting the Strait of Malacca to the South China Sea. Shipping

has not been affected so far. The collision left the Eviokos, carrying 120,000 tonnes of fuel oil to Singapore, with a crumpled port side and a huge gash that divers said extended five metres below the waterline.

Singapore officials are investigating how the two ships collided despite good visibility and being warned they were on a collision course about 13 kilometres south of Singapore's main island.

Insurance industry sources say the oil spill could cost up to \$100 million.

Mr. Gray said he understood the costs of the Australian team would be met by the insurers of the two tankers.

Italian newspaper journalists on strike

ROME (AFP) — Journalists on one of Italy's leading daily newspaper, Corriere della Sera, went on strike Saturday, protesting the inclusion of a supplement produced by an firm said to be close to the centre-right opposition.

Two days of strikes this weekend halt production of the newspaper, and more strikes over three days are forecast, although the exact dates were not announced by the Assembly of Journalists voting on industrial action.

Citing the externally-produced supplement's poor quality, the journalists aim to stop its production, due to appear with the edition of the newspaper for the northern region of Como.

On a wider note, the journalists are protesting against the increasing use of unmonitored outside firms for supplements.

On this occasion, the firm producing the supplement, La Editoriale Srl, is described by the journalists as "politically close to Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right coalition of parties" and with links to a "semi-pornographic" television station.

Local television station Antenna 3 Lombardia holds 25 per cent of La Editoriale's shares.

According to the editorial committee at Corriere della Sera, Antenna 3 Lombardia is "known more for its semi-pornographic programmes than its quality."

One of the newspaper's most reputed journalists, Raffaele Fiengo said, "We decided to strike to defend the quality of the newspaper, to defend its readers against moves which may damage the image and finances of the Corriere della Sera."

The Milan-based paper, with an average circulation of 730,000 copies, belongs to publishing house Rizzoli, a subsidiary of the Fiat-controlled holding company Gemina.

The strike comes as Italy's press is engaged in a "war of gadgets," in which video cassettes, books, language courses, supplements accompany many daily and weekly publications desperate to boost their flagging numbers of readers.

Pakistan urges India to pave way for resumption of talks

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan Saturday urged India to agree to substantive discussions on the thorny Kashmir dispute in order to put the bilateral dialogue back on track.

India can show "sincerity of purpose" by accepting that "all outstanding issues on the agenda be dealt with specifically and substantively," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told a press briefing.

New Delhi "is stuck" where it was, the spokesman said, referring to obstacles arising from Indian unwillingness to set up a joint committee to tackle Kashmir, the principal source of tensions between the neighbours.

At the second round of foreign secretary-level talks in Islamabad in June the two sides had set an 8-point agenda, including peace and security, the Jammu and Kashmir state, as well as confidence-building measures.

It was also agreed between them to set up "joint working groups" to discuss the identified topics.

Pakistan says India is

unwilling to go ahead with the establishment of the agreed mechanism to thrash out the Kashmir dispute, which has sparked two of the three wars between the two countries since their independence in 1947.

The neighbours resumed bilateral dialogue in March holding three sessions between their foreign secretaries in New Delhi and Islamabad. They have so far failed to fix a date for a fourth meeting.

The border in Kashmir, of which India holds the southern two-thirds and Pakistan the rest, has been a hot-bed of tensions, exploding into clashes between rival troops.

The last artillery duels along the dividing line of control occurred a few weeks ago, resulting in dozens of civilian casualties on both sides. The situation cooled down hotline telephone contacts between Indian and Pakistani prime ministers.

"The fate of the region can change overnight if a just solution to Kashmir emerges," the spokesman said, adding it would open

a "vast vista" of regional cooperation.

Pro-Pakistan Kashmiri parties have planned a long human chain on Oct. 24 to highlight the issue, while four pro-independence Kashmiri groups will hold demonstrations on the same day.

The spokesman said Pakistan believed the United States and other friends of the two countries could help mediate a solution to the Kashmir dispute.

India has "no locus standi to declare Kashmir anything but a disputed territory which it is by all norms," the spokesman said.

"We are ready for whatever initiative is taken by friends towards a just solution," he said, asking India not to block possible mediation by mutual friends. "Let friends play a role."

He recalled that Pakistan and India had resolved in the 1960s a thorny row over sharing of river waters with international arbitration that led to the signing of the Indus Basin Water Treaty.

"We are willing to put back bilateral talks on the rails, but the difficulties are well known," he said.

Tight security for U.S. interests amid Sri Lanka bomb clean up

COLOMBO (AFP) — Security was tightened for U.S. interests in Sri Lanka after a huge truck bombing devastated the financial hub and raised fears of more attacks as a clearing up got underway, officials said Saturday.

The Voice of America (VOA) facilities in Sri Lanka were regarded as targets following a U.S. decision last week to outlaw the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the English-language island newspaper reported.

The newspaper quoted U.S. officials as saying they had temporarily relocated staff at the VOA relay station at Iranavila, 70 kilometres north of here, to an undisclosed location.

"It wasn't a phone-in threat," the island quoted a U.S. official as saying. "We just had some information that indicated that it might be attacked."

Police deputy Inspector General T. B. Disnayake said several teams had been sent to track down rebel suspects and further strengthen the already tight security arrangements.

Police had issued a warning that dozens of Tiger suicide bombers have infiltrated the capital when Wednesday's bomb went off, devastating the brand-new World Trade Centre and several other buildings in the area.

Fork lift trucks and small groups of workmen came in Saturday to clear the

massive amount of rubble in downtown Colombo.

"We haven't got the proper equipment yet to move the big concrete beams that have collapsed," a work supervisor at the site said Saturday. "We have started taking away the wreckage of the vehicles damaged by the blast first."

Investigators have found the serial number of the axle that could lead them to the owner of the truck that carried the 400-kilo bomb driven into the area breaching several security checks.

Three of the attackers who died after the blast have been identified as LTTE members, officials said Saturday.

Diplomats here said seven U.S. nationals were among the 34 foreigners wounded in the blast. At least 20 people were killed and a total of 105 were taken to hospital after the attack and the gunbattles which followed.

The Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who were listed as a foreign terrorist group by the U.S. government on Oct. 8, were immediately blamed for the massive truck bombing that devastated Colombo's financial hub.

Earlier, U.S. diplomats here said the U.S. decision on the Tigers, announced by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, was taken because the LTTE had threatened U.S. interests.

A spokesman for the LTTE's London office had

telephoned news agencies to deny involvement in Wednesday's bombing, while the group's regular press releases issued from there have so far made no reference to the bombing.

Sri Lankan officials here say the rebel attack was a direct response to the U.S. action, designed to block fund-raising in America for the Tiger guerrilla movement and prevent sympathisers from entering the United States.

The LTTE had earlier warned that the ban on them was a "serious miscalculation" which would lead to the escalation of the ethnic conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The bombing happened three days after a report that a U.S. military team had arrived in Sri Lanka to train local soldiers battling the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

When U.S. military training for Colombo's security forces was first announced early last year, the LTTE warned America to remain neutral in the Sri Lankan conflict.

In the mid-1980s the United States banned the sale of arms as well as aircraft spares to the Sri Lankan air force, accusing the armed forces of human rights violations while fighting rebels at the same time.

Tamil Tiger guerrillas are leading a drawn out campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Continued from page 1

Enba, in the north, and the PUK in the south. The Kurds are divided into two main groups: the PUK and the PKK. The PUK is a secular, nationalist group that has been fighting for Kurdish independence since 1975. The PKK is a Marxist-Leninist group that has been fighting for Kurdish independence since 1986. The PUK is based in Iraq and Syria, while the PKK is based in Turkey and Iraq. The PUK is a more established group, while the PKK is a more recent group. The PUK is a more secular group, while the PKK is a more religious group. The PUK is a more nationalist group, while the PKK is a more Marxist-Leninist group. The PUK is a more established group, while the PKK is a more recent group. The PUK is a more secular group, while the PKK is a more religious group. The PUK is a more nationalist group, while the PKK is a more Marxist-Leninist group.

Mazan Altamimi
Amman.

A tour of the West Bank: From settlement to settlement

By Hisham Abdallah
AFP

WADI QANA, West Bank — "This will soon be a new Jewish settlement," said Khalil Tufakji, a Palestinian settlement expert, pointing to bulldozers flattening parts of a thick grove of olive trees in the West Bank valley.

The bulldozers were working outside the Jewish settlement of Yaqir, a clump of homes on top of a hill overlooking Wadi Qana, a dramatic valley lined with Palestinian olive trees in the northern West Bank.

Tufakji was speaking to dozens of foreign diplomats and journalists on a tour of the northern West Bank organised by the Palestinian information ministry to show the damage caused by Israel's plans for aggressive settlement expansion.

The Israeli settlement drive is part of a "planned policy to empty these lands of their Palestinian inhabitants," said Palestinian officials on the tour, held on Wednesday.

On the main road between Nablus and Ramallah, Tufakji pointed out the settlement of Elie, perched on its hilltop. Then on the other side of the hill, there was continuing building running down the slope.

"That's the extension of Elie," he said.

Then from the next hilltop, Tufakji pointed to the wide view of the hilly West Bank landscape extending southward. On each hilltop: A settlement, with its concentration of modern red-roofed houses. "So you can see how the whole area has come under Israeli control," he said.

"What is the extent of a settlement? No one knows. Is it the area of the existing buildings, or the ultimate plans drawn up by the occupation authorities, or is the extent of the roads leading to the settlements?" Tufakji said.

Over a third of the 140-odd settlements built by Israel since it occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967 were built in the northern West Bank.

Most were built in the 1970s and 1980s, when Israeli officials followed Likud hawk Ariel Sharon's "hilltop strategy," building settlements on hills between Palestinian communities in order to divide them.

Now, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to go on with expansion of settlements, shrugging off American and Palestinian protests.

"You can see how this settlement has extended over lands confiscated from Palestinian farmers," said Mahmud Allul, the governor of Nablus, during a stop at Ariel, the second largest settlement in the West Bank.

"The Palestinian villages meanwhile have stayed as they are, no development or increase over 30 years," he said.

According to Palestinian statistics, Israel has confiscated some 12,500 acres (5,000 hectares) of Palestinian land in the northern West Bank alone since the start of the peace process in 1993, for settlement purposes.

The figure does not include hundreds of acres confiscated to build new roads to service the settlements. Palestinians are banned from building homes near both settlements and the "bypass roads."

Palestinians on the tour also pointed out the large industrial area of 45 factories built next to Ariel, which produces mainly fabrics and plastics for export abroad — but also, they said, dumps its waste on Palestinian lands.

"The owners of these factories escape the tighter rules on health and the environment inside Israel itself, to work in the West Bank, where they get tax breaks. But they are poisoning the Palestinians," said Khalil Suleiman, an environmental expert from Nablus' Najah University. "They produce chemical waste which they dump on Palestinian land and gases which threaten people's health and damage the ozone layer," he said.

Moreover, Israeli building projects have swallowed up hundreds of Palestinian olive groves and other agricultural products which form a large part of the economy, he said.

One of the foreign diplomats on the tour, the British deputy consul in Jerusalem, Mary Pring, said the effects of the settlements was "no surprise to us."

"But it confirms what we have heard about settlements. We will be reporting on this to our governments," she told journalists.



A bedouin looks after his precious falcons in Al Jafr Desert (file photo by Arslan Ramadan)

Ancient art of falconry enters new era

By Haro Chakmakjian
AFP

DUBAI — The ancient art of falconry, once relied upon by bedouins of the Arabian desert for fresh meat, has entered a new era with expensive gadgetry and scientifically-nourished birds of prey on offer to tempt the sheikhs of the oil-rich Gulf.

When a strong and highly-trained hunting falcon costs anywhere from \$20,000 right up to \$100,000, a radio transmitter helps to ensure your investment does not fly away, literally.

But a powerful transmitter which is tied to the falcon and a tracking antenna with a pistol grip — the art of telemetry — can cost

\$1,000-4,000. The best cover a distance of up to 60 kilometres, depending on the terrain, humidity and altitude of the falcon's flight.

A U.S. manufacturer from Washington state on the rainy Pacific coast assured a local visitor at an Arab Hunting Exhibition in the emirate of Dubai that the \$4,000 on an antenna would be money well spent.

"Oh yes, this is the best if you can afford it," he said. "Actually, I've already got one. I was just asking to make sure that I had the best," came the reply.

Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Maktoum, a member of the ruling family who opened the exhibition, the first of its kind in the

Gulf, marvelled at the transformation which the noble sport of falconry is undergoing.

"In the past, we went hunting with about 20 falcons, and returned, home with only five. But now when we go out hunting with 20, we come back with almost the same number due to the latest techniques available," he said.

Peter Jones, a British exhibitor who breeds the majestic birds, explained that swift tracking of falcons is essential. "If they don't return, you have to find them before they've eaten their prey because then they will fly off," he warned.

Science also plays a major role in the breeding of fal-

cons. "To be in good shape, they have to be stocky. They need to be strong and brave to be good hunting birds. We breed them like thoroughbred racehorses, for bloodline and pedigree," said Helen MacDonald of Hunting Falcons International from Wales.

Her company, which supplies 20-30 birds a year to the family of President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan in Abu Dhabi, specialises in scientifically-designed vitamins for the large Arab falcons. The proteins "reduce strain" and "increase resistance to disease."

The basic paraphernalia have also been "jazzed up," as one exhibitor put it. The burqa, or leather hoods, are used to keep the falcon calm.

"We've taken the traditional Arab design and added some touches of gold to the burqa," he said. A perch, or waki in Arabic, made of hardwood and with an astro-turf top costs around \$75, while the burgas were priced in the exhibition at between \$50 and \$100.

Falcon safaris in Zimbabwe were also on offer, opening up a new destination rather than Morocco, Pakistan or Iran. MacDonald acknowledged, however, that despite the technical advances, the basics have remained much the same since falconry was intro-

duced to the region around the time of the Prophet Mohammad and the spread of Islam.

"In the Gulf, falcons have a very strong relationship with their birds, and that's what counts in the end," she said, adding that many Arabs still prefer to catch and train their own falcons to hunt for houbara bustards and rabbits.

An Emirati visitor, Murnaid Obaid, 37, wearing the traditional white dish-dasha robe of the Gulf Arabs, explained the fascination: "It's the sport not just the hunt that counts."

"To get a wild falcon and train it is a real challenge. And we don't want our sport to die out like our other traditions."

By Karl Penhaul
Reuters

Colombian election under fire

BOGOTA (R) — Colombians are trapped between the ballot box and the bullet as Marxist rebels wage their fiercest campaign ever to sabotage local elections set for this month.

The two main guerrilla armies have already killed more than 30 election hopefuls, kidnapped 200 others and forced at least 1,200 to bow out of politics under threat of death in 126 of the country's 1,072 municipalities. They have also announced an imminent "armed strike," a nationwide military offensive, in an effort to frighten voters away from the Oct. 26 poll for provincial governors, mayors and town councillors.

The government and leaders of the ruling liberal and opposition conservative parties say Colombia's democratic system is under fire. But the rebels call this system a "grotesque carnival" and a thin disguise for a "dictatorship" that serves

Colombia's economic and political elites.

"The elections in Colombia have been distorted, manipulated and corrupted by the oligarchies... we will begin the destruction of this dictatorship of local power barons and their politicians," leaders of the revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Latin America's oldest and largest rebel army, said in a recent communiqué.

"Either there will be democracy for everybody or not for anybody. Colombia for the workers!" the smaller Cuban-inspired National Liberation Army said in a statement explaining their efforts to torpedo the vote.

Military on red alert

President Ernesto Samper has resisted calls from local authorities and the candidates to postpone the elections in the face of unrelent-

ing guerrilla attacks and has instead placed the military on red alert.

Armed forces Chief Gen. Manuel Jose Bonett, already battling some of the bloodiest guerrilla violence in three decades of conflict, warned of an upsurge in "urban terrorism" as the poll nears. So far, his troops have been powerless to keep the guerrillas from bombing campaign offices and murdering candidates at will.

Gilberto Toro, chairman of the Independent Federation of Municipalities, conceded that the legitimacy of the election results may be questioned in areas where few or no candidates remained or abstention was high.

But he said shelving the ballot would send the wrong signal to the men of violence. "Cancelling the elections at this stage would be giving in to those people

who through force of arms want to sabotage the election," he said.

While members of the ruling elite rage against the rebels' "electoral terrorism," few vociferously condemn the widespread voter fraud that the guerrillas use to justify their actions.

"In all democracies there are imperfections... but Colombia has a very solid, very mature democracy," Interior Minister Carlos Holmes told Reuters.

Voter fraud more widespread than rebel violence

To date, however, more than 55,600 phantom voters have been found on electoral rolls in more than 170 municipalities — more than the number hit by guerrilla violence. Election officials say that is "just the tip of the iceberg" of efforts by mainstream political groups to swing the vote in key areas.

"There's a displacement of people from one area to

another in order to back a certain candidate," said a national electoral board official who asked not to be named.

To Sen. Hernan Motta Motta of the radical left-wing Patriotic Union Party (UP), false voter registration is just another symptom of Colombia's corrupt "politics as usual."

"The electoral system in Colombia has a democratic appearance but underneath there's a state of terror," Mr. Motta said, adding that since the up was set up in 1985 more than 3,500 members have been murdered by right-wing death squads who accuse them of being the mouthpiece of the FARC.

Some political analysts say the election sabotage is simply another battle in a wider turf war in which some Western diplomats say the guerrillas already have de facto control of 40

per cent of the country. "The guerrillas" are armies of local occupation, armed powers that compete for the least densely populated areas of the country," El Tiempo columnist Hernando Gomez wrote. "For them their offensive against the elections is a question of sovereignty and defending their territory against the most injurious form of external meddling: The formal election of local authorities."

Rebel sources say the election sabotage campaign is not an end in itself but is intended to serve as the clarion call for a wave of peasant marches and other political-military actions to press their root demands for sweeping agrarian reform, greater social justice and a radical overhaul of the state.

"These elections and our campaign against them is just the beginning, things will not simply calm down after Oct. 26," one FARC source told Reuters.

Kurdish rivals in northern Iraq declare shaky ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

Erbil from Jalal Talabani's PUK last year. Mr. Barzani said he called in Baghdad only because Mr. Talabani's fighters were receiving heavy weaponry from Iran.

The U.S., the main Western peace broker, on Friday announced the latest ceasefire, one of many in recent years.

"We were involved very intensively the past three days to try to walk the parties back and observe a ceasefire," State Department spokesman James Foley said. "This finally bore fruit Friday."

Washington, Britain and NATO ally Turkey have sponsored frequent peace talks between Iraq's Kurds in Ankara that have become bogged down in petty bickering.

Mr. Saib, the PUK's said his group on Friday declared a unilateral ceasefire which the rival faction joined a few hours later.

He said the PUK sought an overall settlement of the conflict. "The truce is indefinite for us but we

want to work for a comprehensive political solution," he said.

Observers say veteran Talabani feels hemmed in by economic embargoes imposed both by his Kurdish enemy and Baghdad.

The PUK also lost standing and territory with the fall of Erbil to Mr. Barzani, who runs a lucrative oil trade on the border with his ally Turkey.

The Talabani forces won back some prestige by hitting Mr. Barzani's plush home and military headquarters with short-range missiles on Thursday.

The assailants used Russian-made Grad missiles, the most destructive weapons seen so far in the Kurdish fighting.

Iraq's government has tried to bring the Kurds back into the fold. Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said this week that Baghdad would try to help both sides reach "a form of relationship that will keep fighting away from our people in northern Iraq and shun foreign interference."

France: IAEA should close nuclear file on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

was still seeking.

He also noted a paragraph in an October report from Richard Butler, head of UNSCOM, saying the council could decide that "certain residual aspects of the disarmament process may be able to be dealt with by moving them into the realm of long-term monitoring."

Diplomats believe the IAEA is being cautious after it was accused of being unable to detect Iraq's nuclear programmes before and after the Gulf war.

France and Russia have wanted some easing of sanctions for sever-

al years and have considerable support throughout the United Nations, with many countries complaining that Washington's tough line is linked to domestic political considerations.

But this cannot be done until weapons requirements are satisfied.

France and, especially, Russia are owed money by Iraq, which Baghdad has not been able to pay since the sanctions were imposed. French oil companies also have negotiated long-term agreements to help modernise Iraq's petroleum industry once the sanctions are lifted.

Palestinians accuse Israel of stalling ahead of Ross mission

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Netanyahu, in turn, continued his hard line, ruling out the top Palestinian demands in the peace process. He told Israel Radio on Saturday that "everything depends on the Palestinians' willingness to fight terrorism."

He also echoed his rejection of a complete freeze on settlement construction, a key Palestinian demand. In particular, he said a halt to construction of a new settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, which brought the peace process to a halt when it was begun last March, was

out of the question.

"This government has the right to build in Jerusalem. No one has asked for it and there's no question [of a halt]," he said.

He also rejected the other main Palestinian demand, implementation of a three-stage Israeli army withdrawal from parts of the West Bank, saying it would not occur "without the guarantee that the Palestinian [National] Authority is fighting terrorism."

The issue of redeployments and settlements are to be addressed in the Washington talks between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and PNA negotiator Mah-

moud Abbas, joined by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Oct. 27.

Those talks are to tackle the broader issues impeding the full revival of the peace process, particularly final-status negotiations, while the negotiating committees continue their work, in a framework set up by Ms. Albright last month.

The negotiating committees deal with obtaining Israeli approval to open air and sea ports in the Gaza Strip, to create a land route for Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza, and to release Palestinian prisoners.

JORDAN MAGNESIA COMPANY LTD. Pre-Qualification of Turnkey Contractor for Magnesium Oxide Project Tender No.: MgO-3/97

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Jordan Magnesia Company intends to erect a plant to produce high quality Magnesium Oxide in Jordan. The plant will be designed for the production of 50000 tonnes per year of High Quality Dead Burned Magnesium Oxide and 10000 tonnes per year of Speciality Products from Dead Sea brine by using the Precipitation Process. The plant will be located at the southern end of the Dead Sea, close to the Arab Potash Complex near the town of Safi, approximately 120 km south of Amman and 220 km north of the Red Sea port of Aqaba. A product storage and ship loading facility will be located at Aqaba, which form part of the project.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT

Tender documents will be issued to qualified contractors which will include a basic engineering package requiring tenders on a turnkey basis. The Contract will include detail engineering design for all disciplines covering both Safi site & Aqaba terminal including Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Piping, Electrical, Controls and Instrumentation, Building Services and Fire Protection, and procurement of all plant process and utility equipment and delivery to site. Construction will include temporary construction facilities, site preparation, foundations, buildings and steel structures, installation of all mechanical/electrical equipment, instrumentation, piping systems, tanks, bins, loading & unloading facilities and painting. The contract will also include testing, commissioning, start-up and putting the plant into normal operation, plus one year maintenance guarantee.

PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Interested contractors who have the necessary design and construction resources may apply for the Pre-Qualification Booklet. This booklet will explain in general, the services required, and is available until November 10th, 1997 against 300 US\$ from :-

JORDAN MAGNESIA COMPANY LTD.

ADLI CENTER- SHEMEISANI

P.O. BOX 941701, 11194, AMMAN- JORDAN

TEL. 9626 691201/3/4 & 9626 695945 FAX 9626 695939 & 9626 691156

Final date for submitting the prequalification documents is 12:00 hrs noon, November 20th, 1997.

Chairman of the Board

Jordan prepares list of projects to submit at Doha

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Planning has prepared draft projects that will be submitted to the Doha Economic Conference which is expected to be held in November. The ministry said Saturday that the projects were selected in accordance with the priorities for the Jordanian national economy and with a view to attracting the interested investors from the private sector.

The projects include the following:

1. Free sea port and the economic sector in Aqaba.
2. Water sector and waste water sectors.
3. Energy sector.
4. Industrial sector.
5. Transport sector.
6. Tourism sector.

This category focuses on creating small industrial workshops, creating a magnesium plant near the Dead Sea. According to a recent feasibility study carried out by a Russian company, the total cost of the whole plant will reach \$300 million.

The government will also put on the agenda for the Doha conference constructing a potassium nitrate and calcium phosphate plant and a granite extraction project.

Projects in this sector include building railways to connect the Shidiyah Phosphate Mines with Aqaba and constructing an industrial wharf to meet the rise in the movement of passengers and goods at Aqaba.

This category covers developing the baptizing site of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River area, developing the desert castles and the Wadi Araba regions, as well as implementing a tourist project in the northern parts of the Jordan Valley between Jordan and Israel. Included also are developing the Um Qais site and the amendment of other touristic sites in that area as well as building new hotels.

This covers enlarging the Jordan Petroleum Refinery at Zarqa and exploring for oil and gas as well as for oil shale.

Sudanese deputies accuse government of ignoring poverty

Other members of parliament also called for efforts to address poverty in the upcoming budget, due in January.

Qamer Hassan Al Tahir, a deputy for the Nuba mountain region of South Kordofan province, said: "The Sudanese people have been patient with the National Salvation Revolution (Bashir's government) for eight years reaching a terrible and horrifying situation."

He demanded that the national assembly, or parliament, come up with an answer to the people's problems or "dissolve itself and leave the matter to the executive body."

Yassin Omar Imam accused state banks of practising usury by imposing high rates of interests on loans for financing economic activities.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 False god
- 5 Hastened
- 9 Gaseous element
- 14 Singer Guthrie
- 15 Cat sound
- 16 Wakes up
- 17 Mr. Uris
- 18 Tune
- 19 Lower in rank
- 20 Yegg
- 23 Wonderful
- 24 Houston favorite
- 25 African antelope
- 27 Get-up-and go
- 30 Puts away
- 33 Kind of race
- 37 Arizona Indian
- 38 — avis
- 40 — Rhythm
- 41 Gay
- 42 Warble
- 43 Vets
- 44 Middle East prince
- 45 Free-for-all
- 46 Narrow sandy ridges
- 48 Band of Kalif warriors
- 50 With GSA
- 52 Aquatic herb
- 57 Old Tokyo
- 59 Sponsors
- 62 See 50A
- 64 Humdinger
- 65 Club fees
- 66 Mistle and —
- 67 Address
- Anderson
- 68 — horned
- 69 Church parts
- 70 — boy!
- 71 Soaks flax

by Don Johnson

Puzzle solved:

OPAL HAKE FHOLE
NAPA AMAD RAKED
ORES LOBO OSSIE
PORTCOLUMBUS
PLYWHEEL AFLICIO
OAS ABREAST
YCR MATEO RST
GOODEBYECOLUMBUS
LIP LOSER ISE
OGANADA UPS
BELIZE EASESOFF
COLUMBUSOHIO
KAREN SPAR RATS
ALONE ETTIE TRIS
YAWED DYER SANE

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DOWN

- 1 Tree used for boats
- 2 Locations
- 3 In the air
- 4 Troglodyte
- 5 Meager
- 6 Aquas
- 7 — the Red
- 8 Duck
- 9 Ark's resting place
- 10 Steal
- 11 Banister's kin
- 12 Greek peak
- 13 Want
- 21 Snug
- 22 — Dinsmore
- 26 Scandinavians
- 28 Pretense
- 29 Shrink temple gateway
- 31 Fish-eating bird
- 32 Wise man
- 33 Fair attraction
- 34 Selves
- 35 Come into conflict
- 36 Puzzled
- 38 Hairdo, briefly
- 41 Ziti
- 45 Grain grinding place
- 47 Flemish painter
- 49 Illinois town
- 51 — Gay
- 53 —, but wiser
- 54 Playing card
- 55 Upright
- 56 Donkeys
- 57 Miss Kett
- 58 Profound
- 60 Tangle
- 61 Lease
- 63 Caviar

JORDAN TIMES TEL:684311-699634

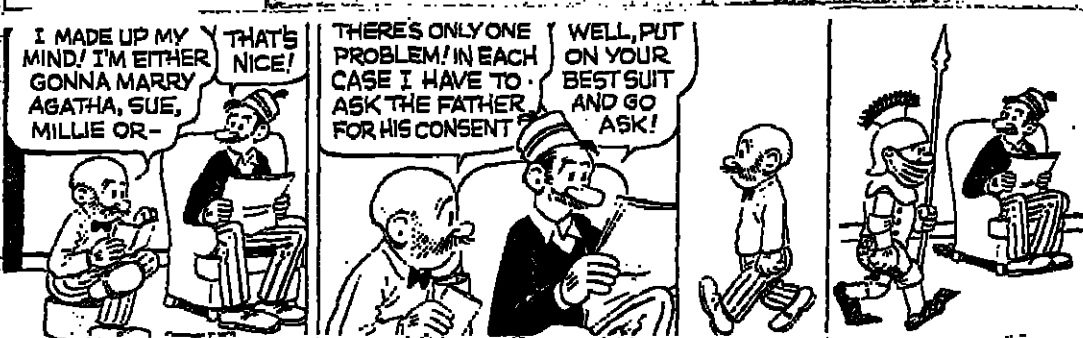
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) People are in the mood to tell their secrets. This ought to be pretty interesting. If there's anything you want to know, ask now. By tomorrow it'll be too late. This will be especially noticeable in matters concerning your neighbours, siblings, taxes and other people's money.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If there's anything you want to keep private about your income or expenses, be careful. The chances of your partner finding out are high. If that will create a problem, better think of a good excuse immediately. Or better yet, put in the correction before anyone notices.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Although you're even better than usual at expressing yourself today, be cautious. Mercury, your ruling planet, has just gone into Scorpio. Immediately instigate defensive manoeuvres. Start dispensing information strictly on a "need to know" basis.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) Do you ever get the feeling that somebody's talking about you behind your back? Well, that could be happening. Have you got a cold? People eight counties over will send you chicken soup and cards of consolation. Don't worry, just don't mention anything that's confidential.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) The moon in Gemini means your friends are all in the mood to talk. They want to exchange ideas, share thoughts and tell stories. Mercury in Scorpio indicates there will be a little stretching of the truth going on. Don't believe everything you hear.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) An older person has something to give you. It's not money, and it's not even good advice. It is more like motivation. This person could talk down to you. That could inspire you to develop more of your talents. You may end up thanking this jerk. So stop by for a visit or call.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Continue with your adventure. If you have not started out yet, get going. It is time you spent a little money on yourself for a change. You and your sweetheart don't need an agenda. What you really want is freedom. You've been locked up in a box for way too long.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Luckily, Mercury is going into your sign. This is only the beginning. Your luck is changing for the better. There's still a lot of mindless chatter going on. Use it to your advantage. Don't tell your own secrets, of course. Instead, find out what's going on in everyone else's lives.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You enjoy digging out the truth, even if it means tossing out your own personal prejudices. Your life is an open book, and it's darned interesting one at that. Today, however, you should keep a few chapters to yourself. Make your confessions to a priest, not to your competitor.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Get the whole family involved in a household project. Have them invite their friends over, too. Provide plenty of hot dogs and soda pop. You can get that picket fence painted before the rains set in. Or maybe it's a new roof you need. Whatever, the more the merrier.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) An older person holds to a very high standard. Although most of your friends and loved ones think you're magnificent, one important person is hard to please. That's OK. The harder you have to try, the more powerful you'll become. Face the challenge and meet it.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) There's a lot of talk today, but how much of it is true? What should you believe? Well, your own intuition's pretty good — start there. Don't fall for symbolism over substance. Listen carefully to a person who doesn't say much. Then, judge by the results, not the intention.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOWDY
KLANB
THRIZE
PHESCY

Answer here: A _____ OF _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BERET BANJO STUPID CYMBAL
Answer: What she hoped to find on the cruise ship — HER DREAMBOAT

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Easing interest rate requires 3-6 months to adjust pricing deposits — Aqel

**** REPLYING** to the question of why banks did not lower interest rates on loans and credit advances following a drop in interest rates on certificates of deposit, issued by the Central Bank, a senior Jordanian banker lists five reasons.

Mufleh Aqel, an executive regional manager at the Arab Bank, sees as one good reason, the strong opposition of the depositors to ease interest on their savings and the desire of the banks to maintain continued smooth and satisfactory relationship with their clients.

Mr. Aqel says some time should pass between lowering interest on deposits and loans and advances. He explains that this period, called "lead time," gives banks time to adjust pricing their credits after having adjusted pricing their deposits. This period takes between three to six months, the senior banker said.

"The banks have not forgotten the liquidity shortage that prevailed in 1996 and we hope that demand on loans will be revived in 1998 to compensate the banks for the high cost of deposits," Mr. Aqel said pointing out that banks do not wish to make a tangible reduction in interest rates so as not to drive depositors to other

options.

Mr. Aqel indicated that interest on certificates of deposit is not really an interest on deposits but rather an investment of banks' surplus for a short period. Furthermore, lower interest on deposits is a result of ample liquidity which the banks are not yet assured of its continuity, the Arab Bank's senior official said.

The banker saw higher investments as a result of lowering interest rate on loans and credit advances but stressed that "we should not expect miracles from reducing interest by one per cent." He said banks are willing to extend credits to a viable project at an interest rate less by one per cent than the rate prevailing in the market.

Mr. Aqel concluded by noting that the banking system in Jordan is passing through a serious stage of reform, modernisation and administrative development. "This stage started with developing controls and implementing international standards as well as improving disclosure policies, consolidating self-financial capabilities and cutting advantages to create a more efficient competitive climate," Mr. Aqel said (Al Ra'i + Al Arab Al Yawm).

Repeat of 1987 stocks crash seen unlikely

NEW YORK (R) — Ten years after Wall Street's spectacular crash shook the world, global players believe a repeat is unlikely, but they also have a "never, say never" attitude and refuse to rule it out.

Just as the plates beneath the earth's surface shift in an earthquake, a market with more than \$10 trillion worth of stock outstanding may occasionally shift and there is no force that can stand in its way, the experts warn.

"If somebody wanted to bet a meaningful amount of money that we're going to have a crash, I'd like to be on the other side of it," said Barrie Wigmore, limited partner at Goldman Sachs Co., who has just completed the first of a two-volume history titled "securities markets in the 1980s."

"It could happen again but it certainly won't happen the same way the last one happened," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany Corp. Mr. Johnson believes another crash is possible but not likely.

Mr. Johnson said there are two ingredients necessary for a crash: Overvaluation, which follows an extended period of speculation, and some mechanism in the financial system that turns an orderly decline into a major retreat.

In the crash of 1929 the mechanism that led to a crash was heavy use of

margin debt. Mr. Johnson said, while in 1987, Portfolio Insurance played a key role.

Several studies that looked at the crash of 1987 cited the role of Portfolio Insurance, a strategy of selling futures as the market falls. The objective was to cushion a portfolio against further losses. The studies said portfolio insurance interacted with index arbitrage, in which professional investors bought stocks and sold futures, or vice versa, to take advantage of price discrepancies.

Ten years later, most experts say that while Portfolio Insurance was a factor in the 1987 crash, it was one part of a complicated equation involving global trade, corporate mergers and other forces.

When the big market break came, the Dow industrial recorded a drop of 508 points, or 22.6 per cent, on Oct. 19, 1987, as volume ballooned to more than 600 million shares, triple the heaviest volumes up until that point. The decline in the Dow from a peak above 2,700 in late August 1987 amounted to 36.1 per cent.

By Mr. Wigmore's account, certain combustibles present in 1987 included overvaluation due to intense merger activity, large flows of money into stock mutual funds, and foreign money coming into the U.S. market. Against that background, the stock

market had ignored rising interest rates, contributing to overvaluation.

At the same time, Mr. Wigmore said, there were "weak links," including a specialist system on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) ill-equipped to handle heavy volume if it was all in one direction, and the dependence of brokers on short-term borrowings to finance their securities inventories.

Mr. Wigmore said "matches" that helped set the markets on fire 10 years ago included rising inflation, rising interest rates, a move in the U.S. Congress to impose a severe tax penalty on mergers, and statements by then-Treasury Secretary James Baker that suggested that the United States might use a lower dollar as a club against Germany and Japan.

A big crack in the markets actually appeared the Friday before the Monday crash when stocks and stock index futures dropped sharply in the final 30 minutes, as foreign investors, U.S. institutions, and most importantly, individual investors, began to panic.

Mr. Wigmore said that based on a statistical model that includes earnings estimates two years forward and two-year treasury rates, stocks are overvalued today by around 22 per cent, compared with a 30 per cent overvaluation prior to the

1987 crash.

While merger activity is strong today, it lacks the speculative excesses of the 1980s and, importantly, no one is talking about curbing the mergers, Mr. Wigmore noted. "There are some flammable aspects and some weak links, but we don't really appear to have any matches," he said.

However, Mr. Wigmore said he still considers the NYSE specialists to be a weak link.

The NYSE says that since the 1987 crash it has undertaken technological improvements, introduced mechanisms to bring stability during volatile periods, imposed higher capital and margin requirements, and launched cooperative efforts with other stock, futures and options markets.

The NYSE has installed systems designed to handle five times the average daily volume of around 500 million shares.

A spokesman for the NYSE defended the specialists, the exclusive market makers on the floor of the exchange. As much as 90 per cent of the time the NYSE system matches buyers and sellers, and the rest of the time the specialist takes part of the trade. The specialists will step up their own buying and selling against the trend during times of market stress, the spokesman said.

One circuit-breaker on the

NYSE curtails programme trading if the Dow moves up or down 50 points, and another is used in conjunction with the standard poor's 500 futures contract traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

The Nasdaq Market, which also came in for criticism after the 1987 crash, has also upgraded its system.

At a conference in New York last week, Robert Schwartz, professor of finance at the Baruch College School of Business, asked and answered his own question about a crash. "Can it happen again? Of course it can, markets are fragile." But he observed that a lot has been learned since 1987. He also said it is important to keep the market from crashing for technical reasons.

"I don't want to say that you can't have a crash, but it's less likely now given the basic fundamentals that I see," said William Lefevre, analyst at Ehrenkrantz King Nussbaum, Inc.

He believes a big difference between 1987 and the present is that today younger Americans have been persuaded to invest in stocks for long-term goals such as retirement and education of their children. As a result, he said, money is not likely to come flying out of stock mutual funds and turn a moderate setback into the next crash.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 18/10/97 19:25									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN
US Dollar	1.7725	0.6181	1.4742	120.73	1.3855	1728.15	1.9550	5.9370	
DE Mark	0.5842	1.0000	0.3485	0.6337	0.7814	0.7470	1.1255	3.3483	
GB Sterling	1.6179	2.8665	1.0000	2.3853	194.61	2.2416	2.7928	3.2268	9.6031
CH Franc	0.5783	1.2015	0.4189	1.0000	81.88	0.3392	1.1717	1.3239	4.9245
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4689	0.5114	1.2201	1.0000	1.4300	165.20	4.9135	
IT Lira	0.7218	1.2660	0.4471	1.0985	1.15	1.2474	1.4251	4.2327	
FR Franc	0.0006	1.0251	0.3569	0.0853	1433.28	0.8013	1.0000	11.54	3.4335
ES Ptas	0.5013	88.82	0.3092	73.85	66.43	0.8934	0.8468	2.9715	
YEN	0.1684	0.2985	0.1040	24.8224	20.32	0.2333	33.61	33.6100	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN
US Dollar	1.7725	0.6181	1.4742	120.73	1.3855	1728.15	1.9550	5.9370	
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	0.2666	0.1888	0.1005	0.97	0.0814	0.88	409.82	0.9060
Saudi Riyal	2.85	1.8790	0.9483	0.85	0.2896	3.74	407.03	0.0135	
Bahrain Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	0.1004	0.1004	0.0639	1.01	422.28	0.0336	
Kuwait Dinar	3.2765	2.3195	1.2283	1.2392	1.93	1.3103	509.04	0.9336	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	0.1021	0.1026	0.0631	1.01	418.48	0.9252	
Lebanese L1000	0.85	0.4806	0.2401	0.2453	2.3681	0.1896	2.3896	22.108	
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2084	0.1037	0.1109	1.0712	0.0898	1.0809	452.32	

Energy									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN
Brent	19.46	19.59							
WTI	21.38	20.85							
Bonny	19.46	19.59							
Dubai	19.05	18.68							
UL Gas	201.00	200.00							

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1437	1.1484
DE Mark	0.3989	0.4009
CH Franc	0.4796	0.482
FR Franc	0.119	0.1196
JP Yen	0.5858	0.5887
NL Guilder	0.3541	0.3559
IT Lira	0.4089	0.4109

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Period	USD	GBP	JPY	DEM	CHF
1M	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92
3M	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92
6M	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92
9M	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92
12M	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92

Source: Central Bank of Jordan	
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Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92	Currency	5.50	5.65	5.75
USD	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.83	5.92	GBP	7.09	7.25	7.37
GBP	7.09	7.25	7.37	7.55	7.43	JPY	0.50	0.50	0.53
JPY	0.50	0.50	0.53	0.48	0.47	DEM	3.37	3.36	3.75
DEM	3.37	3.36	3.75	3.81	4.09	FRF	3.48	3.85	3.80
FRF	3.48	3.85	3.80	3.95	4.19	CHF	1.66	1.85	1.83
CHF	1.66	1.85	1.83	1.89	2.22	ITL	6.63	6.38	6.10
ITL	6.63	6.38	6.10	5.81	5.80				

Main Equity Indices

Index	Value	Change	Index	Value	Change
New York	7847.03	-81.85	DAX	4061.5	-58.72
New York	7847.03	-81.85	DAX	4061.5	-58.72
New York	7847.03	-81.85	DAX	4061.5	-58.72
New York	7847.03	-81.85	DAX	4061.5	-58.72
New York	7847.03	-81.85	DAX	4061.5	-58.72

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/10/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
#	2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	18	7375	13758	1.89	1.86	-0.03
	1.190	.890	MID. EAST INV. BK.	72.3	0.00	4	18500	21265	1.12	1.10	-0.02
	2.600	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.1	6.18	4	700	1782	2.58	2.56	-0.02
	5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.90	10	32100	159858	4.98	4.98	0.00
	1.050	.740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	9.21	11	10800	8239	7.76	7.76	0.00
	4.050	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.6	3.38	24	6400	23648	3.78	3.69	-0.01
	3.900	3.080	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	24.7	0.00	4	300	1153	3.88	3.88	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 236.42 %CHG: -0.18 75 76175 229108											
	2.100	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.4	7.81	5	6850	12994	1.90	1.92	+0.02
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.70 %CHG: +0.11 5 6850 12994											
	2.050	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.0	5.38	27	6474	12113	1.89	1.86	-0.03
	4.030	1.320	IRSID ELECTRICITY	22.6	3.03	3	250	943	3.66	3.80	+0.14
	1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	2	1350	1426	.92	.92	0.00
	3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9	0.00	4	650	2372	2.64	3.65	+0.01
	1.150	.900	SARFA EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	6950	6305	0.90	.91	+0.01
	2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.4	6.21	3	2100	3717	1.77	1.77	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.84 %CHG: -0.18 42 17974 26875											
+	4.450	3.090	JOR. CRISTAL FACT.	20.5	3.61	16	7498	22964	3.09	3.05	-0.04
	4.140	3.000	JOR. PROSPECTIVE MINES	10.0	2.78	5	50000	180000	3.65	3.60	-0.05
	7.050	5.450	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.0	3.33	2	500	3000	6.00	6.00	0.00
	11.310	9.070	JOR. PETRO. REFINARY	10.7	8.04	2	75	828	11.11	11.05	-0.06
+	4.700	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.6	4.74	52	13586	56880	4.32	4.22	-0.10
	1.760	1.180	JOR. PIPES CONPCT.	14.5	6.84	2	550	644	1.18	1.17	-0.01
	1.480	1.050	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	1	100	113	1.08	1.13	+0.05
	6.000	4.300	DAR ALMANA DV. INV.	13.7	4.46	2	150	840	5.60	5.60	0.00
	3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.20	8	4500	10908	2.39	2.45	+0.06
	.710	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	3	2500	3256	50	.50	0.00
	.770	.510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	11	12050	6697	55	.56	+0.01
	1.200	.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	7	6550	3537	55	.54	-0.01
	.890	.530	JOR. SULFUR CHEM.	9	0.00	3	200	137	67	.68	+0.01
	1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.7	5.34	2	500	653	1.32	1.31	-0.01
	1.680	1.060	UNIV. BROW. INDS.	14.4	4.58	3	750	1147	1.26	1.26	0.00
	1.620	1.300	KAYL. COLORLINE	14.4	4.58	3	750	1148	1.54	1.53	-0.01
	1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	3	1850	1610	.87	.87	0.00
	1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	13	6046	7132	1.18	1.18	0.00
	1.200	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	51.8	0.00	7	3043	3512	1.15	1.14	-0.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.50 %CHG: -0.49 152 121698 316026											
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 169.80 %CHG: -0.28		274		222697		585003			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/10/1997											
	.610	.380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	4	5750	2243	.39	.39	0.00
	1.550	1.060	SARA FOR INVESTMENT	77.4	0.00	9	47000	55470	1.20	1.18	-0.02
	.800	.660	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	36	87330	22706	.78	.76	-0.02
	.560	.570	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	13.0	0.00	21	182500	73000	.40	.40	0.00
#	.950	.720	AL-SARAF INV. CO.	9	0.00	2	18000	13760	.86	.86	0.00
	.690	.610	AL-DAMRIYAT 75%	71.0	0.00	6	13803	7134	.75	.74	-0.01
#	1.110	.840	UNIFIED FOR FIN. INV.	9	0.00	1	2000	1110	2.00	1.10	-0.90
+	.990	.480	ARAB CO & MED.	9	0.00	2	750	353	.48	.47	-0.01
	.750	.400	KAYL. HOLZ. ENG. MANICO	9	0.00	25	92850	38069	.42	.41	-0.01
	1.050	.890	REDAV FOR CONCRETE	13.1	0.00	3	1000	2200	.85	1.10	+0.06
	.680	.410	RAYKAT & MOULDS	9	0.00	1	100	45	.43	.45	+0.02
	.810	.710	JORDAN STEEL	33.9	6.67	1	1000	750	.76	.75	-0.01
	.660	.580	MIDWEST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	1	250	96	.64	.64	0.00
+	1.390	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	18.0	0.00	16	39407	44534	1.38	1.09	-0.24
	.730	.550	BAZI PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	4	1619	825	.66	.66	0.00
	.480	.290	INDS. ENG.	9	0.00	6	8033	2651	.34	.33	-0.01
o	1.020	.720	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	41.0	0.00	3	4050	85	.85	.85	0.00
	.840	.580	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.5	16.39	1	1200	732	.62	.61	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 142		500292		265138					

I : New 12 months High
+ : New 12 months Low
: Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
o : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

World Cup qualifiers Kazakhstan bounce back to defeat UAE

ALMATY (Agencies) — Kazakhstan finally recovered their form here Saturday, putting on a classy second half performance to beat the United Arab Emirates 3-0 in the Asia Group B World Cup qualifying round.

Kazakhstan, who had drawn three and lost two in their previous five World Cup qualifying matches, put the UAE under sustained pressure right from the start, and towards half-time the Arab visitors were reeling but still in the game.

The UAE team launched some sporadic counter-attacks before half-time, but were overwhelmed by Kazakhstan's second-half offensive.

As the sun beat down on the Almaty stadium, stick-tapping home fans in the 20,000-strong crowd roared with delight as fair-haired Vitaly Sparishev headed in a cross from the left in the 55th minute, putting Kazakhstan one goal up.

Kazakhstan kept up the pressure, and were rewarded with a second goal in the 73rd minute, when Pavel Yevtyev drove a low shot past the Emirates keeper.

Five minutes later, Dmitry Yurist pounced on a mistake by an Emirates defender to go on a solo run and slam the ball in the Arab net, putting Kazakhstan 3-0 up.

As full-time approached, the Emirates launched a desperate counter-attack, and a clumsy tackle by a Kazakh defender triggered an ugly punch-up.

The brawl threatened to escalate, with several players trading blows, and the Kazakh police ready to intervene.

However, referee Haji Yakoub Nik-Ahmad from Malaysia managed to separate the players before blowing the final whistle, and the two captains shook hands as they led their teams off.

Iran top Group A

In Tehran, Alireza Mansourian scored three minutes after the opening kickoff and Iran rode the support of 100,000 fans to an easy 4-1 victory over China on Friday, moving it well within sight of France and next year's World Cup finals.

The victory gave Iran a 3-2-0 record and 11 points atop Asia's second-round group, a four points ahead of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and China (all 3-1-2) with three games remaining.

Kuwait beat Saudi Arabia 2-1 later Friday.

After next week's game at Riyadh, Iran has Kuwait at home and last-placed Qatar at Doha.

Only the two group winners are assured of qualifying, while the runners-up face off for a third spot and the loser of the playoff taking on Oceania winner Australia for a possible fourth berth. Besides sending the large

crowd into a frenzy at Azadi stadium, Mansourian's goal enabled the Iranians to dominate and shocked the Chinese, who never seemed to regain their composure.

Iran attacked repeatedly and only the inspired play of Chinese goalkeeper Ou Chu Liang kept the score from being worse.

His spectacular saves kept China within a goal until one minute before half-time, when Ali Asghar Modir Rosta caught him a few metres off his line lobbed the ball into the net.

The Iranians maintained their pressure into the second half and Karim Bagheri made in 3-0 in the 68th minute.

Five minutes later, Ali Daei completed the rout with a well-placed left-footer.

China's consolation goal came in the 87th minute when Mao Yi Jun scored from long range.

Holyfield searching for motivation

HOUSTON (AFP) — After two compelling bouts with Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield said Friday that he is concerned about his motivation ahead of his upcoming world heavy-weight title unification bout with Michael Moorer.

Holyfield holds the WBA title after his pair of victories of Tyson and will be aiming to add Moorer's IBF title to his collection when they meet in Las Vegas on November 8.

At the moment, Holyfield is finding it hard to get up for the unification bout.

"When you have a guy like Mike Tyson, and all the publicity that brings, you really have something to fight for."

"The big thing for me is to be self-motivated."

"Michael Moorer can lure you to sleep and cause you to look lousy. I will have to dictate the pace and do the things that I have to do to be successful."



Byron Black of Zimbabwe returns a serve during his semi-final match against Boris Becker of Germany at the Marlboro championships in Hong Kong. Black beat Becker 7-6 (7-3) 6-7 (6-8) 6-4 and will face Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil in the final on Sunday (Reuters photo)

Black and Kuerten set up final countdown

HONG KONG (AFP) — Germany's Boris Becker was knocked out of the \$725,000 Hong Kong Championships here Saturday, losing 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (6/8), 6-4 to Zimbabwe's Byron Black in the semi-finals.

Becker, playing only his sixth match since losing in the quarter-finals of this year's Wimbledon, was clearly tired during the latter stages of the match as Black punished him with accurate backhand passes from the baseline.

World number 22 Becker was forced to three sets in both his group matches in the round-robin stages of the competition.

"In the third set my legs were very slow," said Becker, who sent down 22 aces. "The two three-set matches I had earlier this week probably took its toll."

"He was hitting everything from the base-

line and not making many mistakes. In the end he was a few points better than me."

The 60th-ranked Black will take on French Open Champion Gustavo Kuerten in Sunday's final. Kuerten defeated Australian Scott Draper 6-3, 6-4 and has yet to lose a set in his three matches so far this week.

"I thought I played well," said Kuerten, the world number 11. "I was hitting the ball well and was not making any mistakes."

Draper, who beat last year's runner-up American Vince Spadea to reach the last four, admitted to being hapless against Kuerten's solid play.

"I think I've played quite well this week but I seemed to run into a guy who is really hot at the moment," said Draper. "I really didn't know what to do to beat him."



Boris Becker of Germany falls on the ground during his semi-final match against Byron Black of Zimbabwe at the Marlboro championships in Hong Kong October 18. Becker, who earlier has said he would not play in Grand Slam events after this year, was beaten by Black 6-7 (3-7) 7-6 (8-6) 4-6 (Reuters photo)



Nathalie Tauziat of France celebrates her victory against Lisa Raymond of United States after their semifinals match at the European Championships in Kloten, October 18. Tauziat won 6-3 7-5 to advance to the finals (Reuters photo)

Tauziat ousts Raymond in Zurich

ZURICH (AFP) — American Lisa Raymond failed to show the form which produced a stunning victory over world No.1 Martina Hingis when she lost to unseeded Nathalie Tauziat of France in the semi-finals of the WTA Tour event here on Saturday.

Raymond, who handed Hingis only her fourth defeat of the year by winning a three-setter on Friday night, found Tauziat in no mood to surrender as the French player won 6-3, 7-5 to reach the final of the \$926,250 event.

Fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport of the United States will face Tauziat in the final.

Davenport continued the run of upsets in the event when she downed second-seeded Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-1 in the other semi.

After losing the opening game of the second set, Davenport then raced back with a superb run of six straight games to seal the match.

She used a superb passing shot to get the first break and then took complete control as an increasingly desperate Novotna repeatedly fired the ball wide into the tram-lines.

Giants, Lions are knocking at the door

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Giants and Detroit Lions have a common purpose when they meet at the Silverdome on Sunday — prove to the other teams in their divisions that they're legitimate contenders in the American National Football League.

"This will tell a lot," says linebacker Jessie Armstead of the Giants, who have won three straight to get to 4-3, the same record the win-one, lose-one Lions bring into the game.

Both teams are in position to move up. The Lions are a game behind the Packers, Bucs and Vikings, all 5-2 in the NFC Central Division and all off this week. The Giants are second in the NFC East, a half-game behind Washington and a half-game ahead of Dallas, whom they beat two weeks ago.

The weekend began Thursday night with Kansas City routing San Diego 31-3.

In other Sunday games, Arizona is at Philadelphia; Carolina at New Orleans; Jacksonville at Dallas; New England at the New York Jets; San Francisco at Atlanta; Seattle at St. Louis; Washington at Tennessee; Denver at Oakland; Miami at Baltimore, and Pittsburgh at Cincinnati. Buffalo is at Indianapolis on Monday night.

Chicago, Green Bay, Minnesota and Tampa Bay are idle. The Giants-Lions game has an interesting matchup — Barry Sanders against a defense that hasn't allowed anyone to run for 100 yards against it all season. Last week, Sanders rushed for 215, including TD runs of 82 and 80 yards as the lions upset Tampa Bay 27-9.

"We've sort of found a groove," says Sanders, who has five straight 100-yarders after gaining just 53 in his first two. "It's been a more balanced attack with the addition of a fullback and a tight end who has more responsibilities."

The Giants, who beat the Lions 35-7 in Pontiac last season, are well aware of the problems Sanders presents. Some of their younger players are even in awe.

"With a lot of guys, who get out there and he's not as good as he looks on film," says Sam Garnes, New York's rookie strong safety, who will face Sanders for the first time.

"But everybody says Barry's different — Barry's better."

The Denver-Oakland game, which follows a bye week for both teams, looked like a pivotal game in the NFC West when the schedule first came out. But while the Broncos (6-0) have established themselves as the NFL's best team, the Raiders (2-4) are perhaps the league's biggest disappointment.

But the rivalry persists.

"There's no love lost between these two teams," Denver safety Steve Atwater said. "They want to beat us with a passion, and we want to beat them with a passion."

Passion aside, the matchups seem to favor Denver. Denver's Terrell Davis leads the AFC in rushing with 756 yards, 32 fewer than Sanders in one less game, and the Raiders are 28th against the run in a 30-team league.

The same kind of negative matchup faces Washington as it goes to Tennessee.

The Redskins (4-2) are 29th against the run.

One reason is Washington's first-rate pass defense, featuring cornerbacks Darrell Green and Cris Dishman. But the other is that three of the Skins' four defensive line starters (Chris Mims, Jamal Duff and Rich Owens) are better pass-rushers than run-stuffers.

That gives the Oilers (2-4) a use for Eddie George, who is averaging 4.5 yards a carry. It doesn't, however, guarantee Tennessee a home-field advantage — the Oilers have drawn a little over 17,000 fans for each of their last two games.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA "1"	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA "2"	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430 GALLERIA 1	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430 GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 625155
	Jessica Lange & Halle Berry ... in	Tom Cruise ... in	Julia Roberts ... in	CONCORD "1" Geena Davis & Samuel Jackson ...in	ABDOUN Will Smith & Tommy Lee Jones ... in	ABDOUN Tim Allen... in	Watch out for the new play
	LOSING ISIAAH	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING	THE LONG KISS GOOD NIGHT (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)	MEN IN BLACK	JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE	THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "2" FAIR GAME Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only	Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas



Slovakia's Karol Kucera serves to Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia during the semi-final match of the Czech Indoor ATP tennis tournament in Ostrava. Ivanisevic was forced to retire due to an arm injury after losing the first set 3-6 (Reuters photo)

Haas, Santoro to contest final

LYON (AFP) — Unseeded German teenager Tommy Haas surprised defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Saturday to advance to the final of the \$750,000 ATP Tour event here — his first tournament final.

Promising Haas, now 67th in the rankings, stunned second-seeded Kafelnikov of Russia 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 and will face another unseeded player, Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, in Sunday's final.

Santoro beat seventh-seeded Australian Mark Philippoussis 6-4, 6-2.

Kafelnikov, who hadn't dropped a set all

week, looked in command early on against Haas, but the 19-year-old German took the second set and then moved 5-3 in front in the deciding after Kafelnikov served two successive double faults.

Haas then held for the match — and the biggest win of his career — serving his eighth ace in the process. He punched the air in delight after Kafelnikov mis-hit on the second match point.

Santoro, ranked 42nd, was always in command against Philippoussis, who struggled with his serve — usually his greatest weapon.



Lens soccer player Drobnyak Anto (R) fights for the ball with Monaco soccer player Konjie Muhammed (L) during a French league soccer match (Reuters photo)

PSG hit the front as Metz lose

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint Germain went top of the French table on Friday after a workmanlike 2-0 win at Toulouse, early pacesetters Metz having gone down 2-0 at a Fabrizio Ravanelli-inspired Marseille on Thursday.

Class told as PSG handed Toulouse their first home defeat since promotion with goals from former Lyon duo Franck Gava and Florian Maurice to silence the 19,000 crowd.

Gava fired home a deflected 20-yard effort after 26 minutes to put the visitors in control.

And after Jerome Leroy had missed a good chance when set up by Marco Simone, Maurice was on hand to pick up a loose ball inside the box and poach his seventh of the season ten minutes after the break.

Maurice could have had another, but hit the bar with an ambitious cross shot three minutes from the end.

Metz had succumbed Thursday to Ravanelli's brilliance at the Stade Velodrome as the Italian scored his second goal in two matches since his \$5million move from Middlesbrough, adding decisively to a header from Laurent Blanc.

The silver-haired striker was watched by Italian coach Cesare Maldini, checking out the 28-year-old's form before the vital World Cup playoffs against Russia.

Marseille are now fourth, four points behind PSG and three behind Bordeaux, who stand third after Thursday's 1-0 win at Guingamp secured by Brazilian striker Rodrigues Ricardinho.

Champions Monaco

meanwhile saw their recent good run come to an end as they went down 1-0 at Lens, one point ahead of the Monegasques, with Herve Arsen's winner on 52 minutes.

Strasbourg warmed up for their UEFA Cup clash with Liverpool by seeing off rock-bottom Cannes 2-0 with goals by Gerald Baticle and Patrick Nouma.

It could have been a rout but for an inspired showing by Cannes' 17-year-old keeper Sebastian Frey, who made a dozen superb stops, including saving a first-half Baticle penalty.

Auxerre climbed to seventh with a 2-0 win over Bastia for their sixth win of the season — against six defeats.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH

PLAY OR DEFEND?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 5

♥ A K 10 8 6 3

♦ J 9

♣ J 9 6

WEST

♠ 6 4

♥ Q 7

♦ A Q 8 4

♣ K 8 5 4 3

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 8 7 5

♥ 10

♦ 10

♣ A 10 2

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

2♠ Pass 20 Pass

2♥ Pass 30 Pass

4NT Pass 50 Pass

6♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Study all four hands in the diagram above. After the lead of the ace of diamonds and a diamond continuation, would you rather declare or defend six spades?

The spade slam is not a difficult one to get to after an aggressive demand bid. The auction shown is for those who use two clubs as the only strong bid. If those are not your methods, just start at the second line of the auction.

With only one sure entry to dummy, it might seem that the slam depends on an even heart break.

Ruff the diamond continuation, cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart high. Cash the ace of trumps and return to the table with the jack, drawing the last outstanding trump. But when West shows out on the third round of hearts, you must lose a club — down one.

Declarer can improve considerably on this line. Ruff the second diamond high, cash the ace and king of hearts and ruff a heart high to discover the 4-2 division. Now lead the three of trumps and, when West follows with the four, finesse the five! When that holds, ruff another heart, enter dummy with the jack of trumps and take a second club discard on a long heart. Making six odd.

However, don't be in too much of a hurry to elect to declare — the defense still has a sting to its bow.

When South leads a low trump toward the board's J 5, West must insert the stopper! That forces the jack, and declarer does not have another low trump with which to reach dummy's five. No matter how declarer twists and turns, the defenders must get a club for down one.

Let's hope that all who choose to defend did so for the right reason!

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Unruly crowd disrupts SEA Games football final

JAKARTA (AFP) — An unruly crowd that threw rocks, bottles and burned benches during the half-time pause at Saturday's football final match between Thailand and Indonesia forced a delay in the game.

Frustrated by Thailand's 1-0 lead in the first half, crowds began to throw stones, empty plastic bottles and other objects onto the field, witnesses said.

Some youths crashed a barrier separating the public and the football field and ran towards a penalty spot to plant an Indonesian flag, while others set fire benches and other objects at several locations, prompting a fire engine to enter the field to douse the flames, they said.

Indonesian officials pleaded with the crowd through the public address system to refrain from "sully the name and the pride of the nation."

Hundreds of soldiers and policemen were deployed to try to calm the rowdy crowd.

Some 2,500 security members were on hand in and outside the stadium to safeguard security during the finals in the 110,000 seat Senayan stadium.

Premier League roundup Wihdat maintain lead after 2-0 win

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Champions Al Wihdat maintained their lead atop the Premier League after their 2-0 win over Al Hussein Saturday ending the 8th week of the first round of the 10-team competition.

Al Wihdat still enjoy the only unbeaten record so far and have a 3-point lead over Al Ramtha who scored a 1-0 crucial win over Al Faisali earlier in

the week.

During the past week, last-placed Al Karmel scored their first win 2-0 over Shabab Al Hussein. Al Qadisiyah moved up to 5th after a 2-0 win over Al Baqaa while Al Ahli dropped to 6th after a 1-1 draw with Al Jazireh.

The ninth and final week of the first round begins Wednesday and will include relatively easy matches.

However, teams will be giving it their best hoping

STANDINGS									
Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts		
Wihdat	8	7	1	0	13	3	22		
Ramtha	8	6	1	1	14	4	19		
Faisali	8	5	1	2	24	9	16		
Hussein	8	5	1	2	16	11	16		
Qadisiyah	8	3	1	4	10	13	10		
Ahli	8	2	3	3	17	16	9		
Jazireh	8	2	2	4	9	12	8		
Baqaa	8	2	0	6	9	18	6		
S.Hussein	8	1	1	6	4	14	4		
Karmel	8	1	1	6	6	22	4		

to improve or consolidate their standings before the

second round kicks off later next month.



Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan (L) controls the ball as he passes Stephane Rissacher (R) of French club Racing PSG during early action in their 1997 McDonald's Championship semi-final match (Reuters photo)

Jackson returns after brain surgery

GLASGOW (AFP) — Celtic and Scotland star Darren Jackson has headed a football for the first time since undergoing brain surgery six weeks ago.

Jackson suffered no adverse reaction and Celtic general manager Jock Brown said the forward is on track to return before the New Year, as long as a final brain scan next month gives him the all-clear.

Brown said: "I am delighted to report that Darren has been able to head the ball again."

"If the scan next month is OK then there is every indication he can then play again almost immediately. The fact he can head the ball shows progress is good."

Federal Express holds Golf Tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Federal Express Jordan this weekend sponsored an open golf tournament at the Bisharat Golf Club.

In a unique and extraordinary display parachuters from the Royal Jordanian Parachute Club landed at the golf course bringing down with them the trophies for the winners.

It was a great scene for everyone, and organisers — Federal Express Jordan — gave a special trophy for Mr. Samih Janakat, the Director of the Club.

The winners came as follows:

The Champion Mr. Farington
1st place Low Handicap Mr. Telford
2nd place Low Handicap Mr. Abu Al Hawa
3rd place Low Handicap Mr. Aub
1st place High Handicap Mr. Al Ameen
2nd place High Handicap Mr. Mussalam
3rd place High Handicap Mr. Aurmond
Nearest to the pin hole # 4 Mr. Pauler
Nearest to the pin hole # 6 Mr. Abu Al Hawa
Nearest to the pin hole # 8 Mr. Aub
Longest Drive for hole # 7 Mr. Rafter
Longest Drive for hole # 5 Mr. Aub

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) of Jordan announces that it has released a Call for Tenders for two national public access mobile radio service (TRUNKING) licences.

Following consultation with the industry, the TRC issued the Call for Tenders dated October 18, 1997 (TRC Call 1997-1), which sets out the process that the TRC will follow in awarding the new licence. The process consists of two phases. During the first phase, a special tender evaluation committee will review the technical aspects of the submissions from all applicants. Those applicants who successfully pass this phase will participate in the second phase, in which their sealed financial proposals will be opened at a meeting of all qualifying applicants. Parties interested in applying for the public access mobile radio service (TRUNKING) licences may obtain a copy of the Call for Tenders from the TRC upon payment of JD2,500 before November 18, 1997. The deadline for the submission of applications is January 25, 1998.

For a copy of TRC Call 1997-1, or for further information, contact:

The Office of the Director General
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 850967, Amman 11185, Jordan
Tel. (962) 6-862020 - Fax (962) 6-863641



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT Social Productivity Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan is inviting interested individuals to submit applications for the position of Director of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Training and Employment Support Project, which is a sub-component of the Jordanian Government's Social Productivity Programme (SPP). The SPP, formally announced in April of this year, is a multi-year initiative which is intended to (1) lift all Jordanians above the poverty line, (2) raise the living conditions of the poor through universal access to good public infrastructure and services, and (3) alleviate the situation of unemployment among the poor.

The Training and Employment Support Project will be implemented over a three-year period by the PIU housed in the Ministry of Labour (MoL). The PIU will manage the project on a day-to-day basis. It will establish contracts with public and private agents throughout Jordan who will assist employers in identifying their training needs (occupational needs analysis), match the unemployed with jobs to be filled (labour market intermediation), and channel employers' requests for use of the Training Fund to the PIU. The PIU will approve qualifying applications and disburse funds to employers. It will maintain project accounts, ensure that they are audited annually, and report on progress quarterly to the Minister of Labour. As such, the Director should be a Jordanian citizen and a mid-career professional with significant managerial, social science, and business expertise, and have thorough knowledge of both the Government of Jordan and the business community.

Specific responsibilities of the position include the following:

- To manage and coordinate all implementation aspects of the project on a day-to-day basis.
- To prepare annual work programmes and budgets.
- To monitor all project activities, including evaluation of all proposals, procurement of goods, selection of consultants, awarding of contracts and disbursement of funds.
- To manage PIU staff and ensure their proper training and readiness.
- To mobilize additional resources (if needed) to meet the technical assistance needs of the PIU.
- To liaise with all parties and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project, local or foreign.
- To ensure the effective transfer of skills to counterpart ministries and agencies.
- To submit quarterly progress reports to the Minister of Labour.
- To act as a secretary to the Training Fund Executive Committee of the project.
- To carry out other related tasks as may reasonably be requested by the Minister of Labour.

Qualifications and Experience Required:

- A graduate degree in management (human resources), business administration, economics, or other related social disciplines.
- Detailed knowledge of labour market and employment issues, as well as technical and vocational education.
- Minimum of ten years experience including in management and implementation of multi-agency technical assistance programmes and substantial experience in the private sector.
- Strong organizational, managerial and analytical skills.
- Complete fluency in Arabic and English with experience in report preparation and writing, and proven leadership, interpersonal, and team-building skills.

All applications should be received in the UNDP office no later than 28 October, 1997 in an envelope marked Social Productivity Programme. Short-listed candidates will be expected to take a written test and appear before an interview panel.

UNDP, P.O. Box 35286, Amman 11180, Jordan

Relatives arrive in S. Arabia to visit jailed British nurses

RIYADH (AFP) — Relatives of two British nurses being held in jail in Saudi Arabia on murder charges have arrived in the kingdom to visit the women, the British embassy here announced Saturday.

"The families arrived last night. They will stay three days. They will visit them Saturday, Sunday and Monday" at Dammam prison in eastern Saudi Arabia, embassy spokesman Alex Brown told Agence France Presse.

Deborah Parry, 38, of Alton, Hampshire, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee, Scotland, are accused of murdering Yvonne Gilford at the King Fahd Medical Centre in Dhahran, where all three women worked, in December.

Parry, who has yet to be formally convicted, faced execution until Gilford's brother Frank agreed to waive the right to demand

the death penalty last week in return for \$1.2 million compensation.

McLauchlan has been convicted of being an accessory to the murder of Gilford, and has been sentenced by a Saudi court to eight years in jail and 500 lashes, although the verdict is currently being appealed.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador in London Ghazi Algosaihi said earlier this week that the two nurses may now only face five years in jail.

"According to the Saudi legal system, when the next of kin pardons, as he did, the court will apply the lesser sentence of jail, usually not exceeding five years," Mr. Algosaihi said in a statement.

Since the pair were arrested in December, McLauchlan's mother Ann and Parry's sister and brother-in-law Sandra and Jonathan Ashbee have visited them regularly in jail.

Mr. Brown said a British diplomat would accompany the family members on visits, and that the nurses would also see their lawyer on Monday.

He added that when a British diplomat visited them last week "they were doing well."

"They must have heard the good news on the radio," Mr. Brown added, referring to Frank Gilford's decision to accept the compensation after months of haggling.

Under the Islamic laws observed in Saudi Arabia, the Gilford family has the right to spare Parry's life if she is convicted of murder in return for "diya," or blood money.

The nurses both deny murdering 55-year-old Gilford on Dec. 12 last year, and retracted confessions they said were made under sexual and physical abuse. Yvonne Gilford was found stabbed 13 times, battered and suffocated.

Pan Am relatives willing to have Libyans tried in neutral court

NEW YORK (AP) — Reversing a long-held position, some American relatives of Pan Am Flight 103 victims are now willing to have two Libyans accused of bombing the jetliner tried in the Netherlands or another neutral country.

The move is aimed at forcing Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi to act on his pledge to turn over the pair for trial anywhere outside the U.S., where he insists they could not receive a fair trial.

"We're calling Qadhafi's bluff," said Bert Ammerman, a school principal in River Vale, New Jersey, who was an early and vocal advocate for victims of the Dec. 21, 1988, crash over Lockerbie, Scotland. A bomb exploded in the jet's cargo hold, killing 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Not all crash victim relatives agreed with Mr. Ammerman. Susan Cohen, of Cape May Courthouse, New Jersey, sharply disputed his claim that an international trial has broad support among American relatives.

"I am outraged," she said. "For anyone to suggest that we're calling Qadhafi's bluff by giving him what he wants is totally outrageous — it's doing his work for him," said Ms. Cohen.

Guevara, who was executed

Guevara's revolutionary plans were realistic, and "had he been able to carry them out, the world today would be different," Mr. Castro said as he stood below a seven-metre bronze statue of the fallen rebel.

"Hasta la victoria siempre" (onwards toward victory always), Mr. Castro said at the close of his speech, choosing to use Guevara's trademark slogan instead of the official "my nation or death, socialism or death."

Castro leads massive funeral for Che Guevara with rebel's slogan: 'Hasta La Victoria Siempre'

SANTA CLARA (AFP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro joined tens of thousands of Cubans here Friday for the final burial of his former comrade-in-arms, rebel icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Applause greeted President Castro, 71, when he appeared in the city's square to deliver a 20-minute eulogy before Guevara's bones were entombed in a mausoleum featuring the Cuban, African and Bolivian jungle vegetation in which Che fought and ultimately died some 30 years ago.

"Transformed into a symbol for the poor around the world, Che is engaging in and winning more battles than ever," Mr. Castro said in a prepared statement.

Appearing thin and clad in his trademark olive-green fatigues with matching cap, the Cuban Communist Party chief saluted "the real communist" that was Guevara.

"For him nothing was impossible," he told the crowd waving Cuban flags and portraits of their hero. "How could the imperialists believe that by killing Che, the fighter would cease to exist?"

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Guevara, who was executed

by the Bolivian army at age 39, was buried shortly after 10 a.m. Immediately afterwards, factory whistles, civil defence alarms and truck and car horns sounded throughout the island.

At the same time, the military fired a 21-cannon salute from the Cabana Fortress at the entrance to Havana's harbour. Another cannon salute was fired in Santiago de Cuba at the far end of the island, some 1,000 kilometres east of the capital.

A military parade led by General Harry Villegas and Colonel Leonardo Tamayo Nunez, both veterans of the revolution, followed the salutes.

Santa Clara was "liberated" by Guevara in 1958 in one of his more famous attacks that led to the ouster of dictator Fulgencio Batista on January 1, 1959. It is considered the fallen hero's adoptive city.

For days before the ceremony, hundreds of thousands of Cubans filed into the former governor's palace to view the seven varnished wooden caskets containing the remains of Guevara and six of his fallen comrades.

The remains of Guevara and the others were exhumed from an unmarked grave in Bolivia earlier this year and brought to Havana July 12, ahead of the 30th anniversary celebrations.

The cortege that took them here from Havana Tuesday followed the same 300-kilometre path that the victorious Guevara took in December of 1958 as revolutionary forces pursued Batista's troops.

From a well-born childhood pained by asthma, Che trained as a doctor and worked as an allergy researcher before hit-



Legendary leftist guerrilla Ernesto Che Guevara's remains are carried by an honour guard into a specially built mausoleum in central Santa Clara, Friday (Reuters photo)

ting the road, touring Latin America by motorbike, working with lepers and then becoming outraged by foreign-owned industries he saw as grossly exploitative. He eventually linked up with a young man named Fidel Castro in 1950s Mexico.

Guevara went on to lead Cuba's agrarian reform and serve in other top posts here before heading off to try to

foster revolution abroad.

The 150-square-metre mausoleum complex that is the peripatetic icon's final resting place is filled with jungle vegetation kept fresh by a special sprinkling system. Located in Ernesto "Che" Guevara Revolution Square, it includes a museum with personal belongings of the fallen hero. It is topped with the bronze statue of Che, rifle in hand.

Security forces surround tribe holding Briton hostage in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni security forces deployed in force Saturday around a remote hideaway where tribesmen are holding a Briton and two Yemenis hostage, in a bid to pressure the gunmen into surrendering, police said.

"Around 120 policemen armed with automatic rifles have been deployed since Friday evening in the region where the Bani Dabian tribe is holding the hostages," a security official told Agence France Presse.

"The government is trying to put pressure on the kidnappers ... to obtain the safe release of the hostages as quickly as possible," he added.

The three were captured near Zamar, some 55 kilometres south of the capital Sanaa, on Wednesday by armed men from the Rashed Al Tam clan of the Bani Dabian tribe, and taken to a mountain bolt-hole in the region.

The British hostage is believed to be a consultant working for a Japanese aid agency known as Japan International in Yemen, according to David Pearce, the charge d'affaires at the British embassy.

The other two hostages are thought to be his driver and his interpreter. A tribal official said the governor of Sanaa, Sheikh Naji Al Sufi, was involved in a dialogue with "the leaders of neighbouring tribes of the Bani Dabian to try to reach a compromise."

Mr. Pearce said no direct contact had been made with the British

hostage. But he added: "The ministry of interior told us this morning he was in good hands and good health and being looked after. The ministry said they hoped he would be released soon."

"It seems to be the tribesmen want electricity and water. It is not a political kidnapping," said Mr. Pearce.

Yemeni tribesmen, who control vast areas of the country's rural interior, frequently kidnap foreign tourists to use as bargaining chips to try to make financial demands on the government.

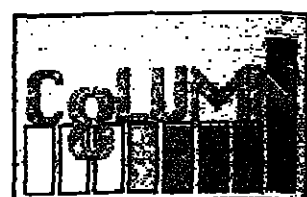
A tribal official told AFP the kidnappers wanted financial aid for the Bani Dabian tribe and were also demanding that the government complete electricity and water projects in the region.

Since 1993, around 100 foreigners have been kidnapped in Yemen but all have been freed unharmed.

On Thursday, four French tourists, all over the age of 50, were freed after being kidnapped and held for a day by armed Yemeni tribesmen in the north of the country.

Usually the tribes see kidnapping as a short cut to forcing their way through bureaucratic red tape to get money, jobs or other concessions from the government.

However, the Yemeni authorities take a dimmer view, accusing the kidnappers of being urged on by "foreign powers" to destabilise the country and to scare away vital tourism hard currency.



Irish teachers urged to drop 'mummy and daddy'

DUBLIN (R) — The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has urged teachers to drop "mummy and daddy" from their classroom vocabulary to recognise the growing number of one-parent families, the Irish Independent newspaper said. Instead, teachers should use phrases such as "the adults who live in your house" or "the people who look after you," the paper said. The language was part of the church's new Irish religious education programme for four-to five-year-olds which was launched in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Thursday. "Whereas in the past a family had a mummy and a daddy, now we don't say those kind of things," the paper quoted one of the organisers of the campaign as saying.

Residents demonstrate against 'neighbour from hell'

SAINT-HERBLAIN (AFP) — Scores of residents demonstrated Saturday against a woman who, they say, has for almost ten years terrorised neighbours with insults, racist abuse, physical aggression and trespassing on their property. They say the troublesome neighbour in a Nantes suburb in western France — the wife of a former magistrate — also drunkenly tormented a couple about the death of their child, started fires, and ransacked a local hairdresser's salon in the middle of the night. Nearly 200 people took part in the demonstration in the Saint Herblain street where the woman lives demanding she leave the area, and a campaign entitled "Halt the neighbour from hell" has won the backing of the local mayor.

Chicago girl who never went to school starts classes

CHICAGO (R) — A 15-year-old girl kept out of school except for a few days of kindergarten has started work in an eighth grade classroom trying to catch up, officials said. The Chicago board of education said the girl, who was not identified, would receive special help to improve on rudimentary reading and math skills. Her case came to light after anonymous calls to a truancy hot line by a woman who turned out to be the girl's mother. Education officials said the mother had apparently only recently become aware of a city regulation under which parents can be jailed for permitting truancy or keeping a child out of school. They said the child rarely left her home and spent much of her time learning about the world by watching television.

Monkeys, pangolins, weasels take bus in Vietnam

HANOI (R) — A local bus packed with dozens of long-tailed monkeys and other jungle animals was stopped by officials on its way from central Vietnam to the border with China, a forestry patrol officer said. Altogether 79 monkeys, nine pangolins and 16 weasels were discovered in a random check and later released into the forest, the official said, confirming a report in a local newspaper. The report said a 25-year-old woman had been accompanying the animals but did not say what happened to her. Smugglers earn huge sums sneaking bears, weasel-like pangolins, squirrels and lizards into China, where the animals' bones and intestines are often used in traditional medicine.



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